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Swiss Club of New South Wales Limited - PO Box 3292 Bangor NSW 2234

# 2017 Calendar

Email us your calendar entries to [swisscommunitynews@gmail.com](mailto:swisscommunitynews@gmail.com) if you'd like to be included in the next edition.

<b>November</b>	Sun 5	SCNSW Buure Zmorge at the Austrian Club in Frenchs Forest, 9.30 to 11.30 am
	Tue 14	SCCS Volunteers Dinner at Il Bolognese in Gladesville from 7.00 pm
	Sat 25	SCCS Christmas Luncheon at the Concordia Club in Tempe from 12.00 noon
	Thu 30	Cercle Romand, 2017 Dinner, details to be advised
<b>December</b>	Thu 7	SCCS Central Coast Group Christmas Cruise
	Mon 18	Jassers and Members Christmas at the Leichhardt Royal Hotel from 6.30 pm

The Swiss Club Board meets every 1st Monday of the month at The Royal Leichhardt Hotel, from 6.30 pm followed by dinner. Swiss Jassers also meet every Monday at The Royal Leichhardt Hotel. Support your Club and advertise via our exciting online outreach platforms: new opportunities via our website and direct email Newsflash to hundreds of contacts. Enquiries to [info@swissclubnsw.com](mailto:info@swissclubnsw.com)



## Meet up at Frenchs Forest

**With Swiss from the Northern Beaches & surrounding suburbs**

every 2nd Friday of the month at The Austrian Club, 20 Grattan Crescent Frenchs Forest from 7pm for food, a drink, a chat or a Jass – come along. **Contact Sigi Achermann 9451 6018**

## Advertising Rates 2017/18

Please support our Swiss Community News (SCN) Magazine by advertising with the Swiss Club of NSW (SCNSW). Send artwork (minimum of 300dpi with crop marks and 3mm of internal and external bleed) by the SCN deadlines, which are listed on page 1 of each SCN Magazine. Three issues in colour print are available:

**FULL PAGE:** 210mm x 298mm - \$790

**HALF PAGE:** 210mm x 148mm - \$620

**1/8 PAGE:** 35mm x 50mm - \$175

**1/4 PAGE:** 105 mm x 148mm - \$370

**1/6 PAGE:** 70mm x 90mm - \$215

**Trade Directory:** every advertiser in the SCN Magazine also receives a listing in our Trade Directory. If you wish to be listed *only* in the Trade Directory, a nominal fee of \$35 covers three (3) issues annually.

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**Online:** a one-off advert in our eNewsflash (generally emailed on the first day of each month), 3-months presence on our Facebook page and website costs \$100. Payments are to be made by direct deposit into the SCNSW account.

### Bank account details:

Account Name: **Swiss Club NSW**

BSB Number: **112-879**

Account Number: **061587992**

**Next deadline for issue #233 is 4th February 2018 for the March 2018 issue**  
to [swisscommunitynews@gmail.com](mailto:swisscommunitynews@gmail.com) with articles of 600 words max (400 min) and images of 300dpi minimum.

**Editor: Barbara Koeppel | Design: Roy Vidal | Printer: Minuteman Press - Claudio Tello**



# President's Message

Dear Members and Friends,

This is my last report for the year, and I must ask myself, how has this year passed by so quickly?

The last few months were rather difficult for all Swiss who have any connection to the Swiss Clubs or Swiss organisations by losing Armin Roth so suddenly. I had the opportunity to be part of the "wake" celebration of Armin's professional, personal life and as a volunteer, which was interesting and comprehensive to say the least. Congratulations to the Swiss Community Care Society for electing a new President, Regula Scheidegger, at their recent AGM at the Austrian Schnitzel House. We wish her all success in her new role and trust the society will continue to be as strong as in recent years.

Many thanks also go to the Swiss Club committee members for yet another year working together as a strong team.

The Schützenfest on October 8 was a good opportunity to participate in something most Swiss men had been used to back home where they had to fulfil the yearly target shooting. This time though, there was no pressure and only fun. The kids enjoyed the activities on offer as well as the Swiss chocolate prizes and tokens received for participating in the games. Even the adults

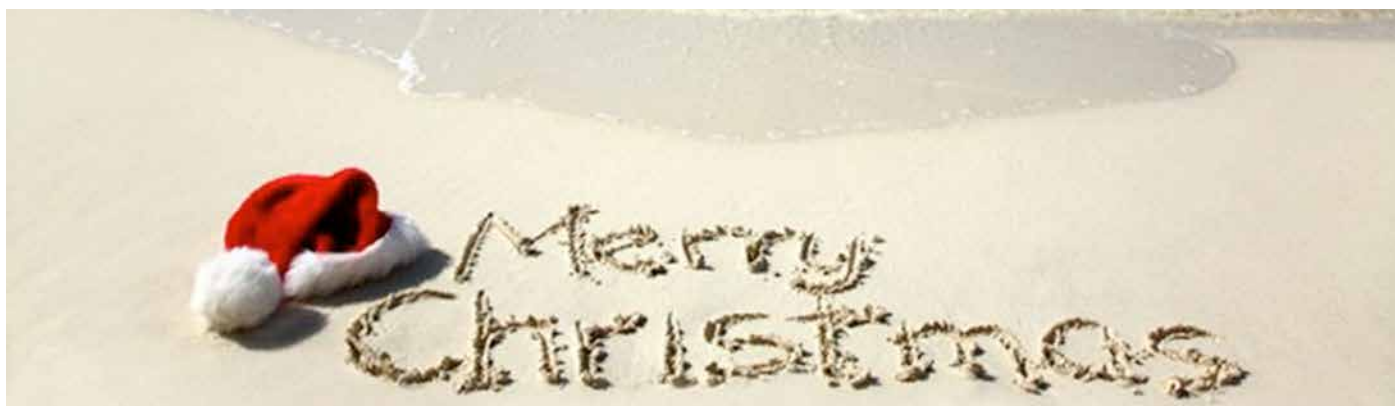
turned into "kids" again for a moment and joined in the fun hoping to score some chocolate as well; luckily there was enough for all to share.

Don't forget that the Swiss Club is inviting members for the annual Christmas gathering at the Royal Leichhardt Monday December 18 from 7pm for a dinner, a Jass or just a friendly chat amongst friends. All members who book in writing with me, will receive a small bag of Christmas goodies to take home.

Keep early February in mind, as we will join the Cercle Romand again for their annual Petanque game at a chosen Park. Like last year's competition, it will surely be a lot of fun with a large crowd making the competition much more intense. Just the food is well worth showing up for, as there are always plenty of homemade delicacies on offer for all. Please refer to the newsflashes and websites for all information about the activities organised by all Swiss groups. Please express your interest for involvement and support wherever you can to keep us going.

I wish you all a pleasant end of 2017 and look forward to a successful 2018. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from your Club.

Your President,  
Daniel Frutiger





# Recent Swiss Club Events

## Royal National Park Bushwalk with Heisse Maroni Brätlä and Glühwein



On Sunday, 16 July, we organised a bushwalk from Bundeena to Jibbon Head with whale watching in the Royal National Park, followed by a heisse Maroni Brätlä and Glühwein. Thank you to everyone who came along and to Cercle Romand Sydney for their support. We hope you all enjoyed the day.

Visit our YouTube channel to watch a short clip from the event. Filmed and edited by the Swiss Club of NSW. Video: <https://goo.gl/eYLnXV>



## Swiss Schützenfest (Shooting Festival)

On Sunday, 8 October, the Swiss Small Bore Rifle Club (SSBRC) and the Swiss Club of NSW joined together to organise a Swiss Schützenfest (Shooting Festival) in Manly Vale. This festival was last held 20 years ago on the same grounds at the SSBRC with over 90 patriotic club members who participated within the shoot. Today, we were proud to once again unify with the SSBRC to revive a forgotten and cherished event. There was a great turnout of 30 keen shooters of all ages. The theme of the day was Swiss Military, where a typical Swiss Army meal and beverage was served to our attendees: a Spatz (Swiss Army beef stew) with carrot cake and hot chocolate.

We were honoured to have the professional SSBRC team offer their one-on-one coaching for each attendee, which included the supply of an SSBRC rifle, targets, 25 rounds of ammunition, and a range master. The day would have not been complete without a bit of a competition! All attendees were placed in teams consisting of groups of three (families or otherwise) to compete for the Dusty Cow-Bell Trophy.

We would like to personally thank all the participants for showing their support and congratulate the winners; we hope you all had a lot of fun and enjoyed your prizes!



We also especially thank the SSBRC for hosting and assisting with the festival. We look forward to your support next year for the 2018 Swiss Schützenfest!



Visit our YouTube channel to watch a short clip from the event. Filmed and edited by the Swiss Club of NSW. Video: <https://goo.gl/LLvjTL>



# Swiss Club Upcoming Events

## Buure Zmorge at the Austrian Club

Enjoy a delicious and authentic Buure Zmorge (Swiss Farmers Breakfast) at the Austrian Club in Frenchs Forest. There will be a selection of traditional Swiss cheeses, rohschinken, bresaola, grilled chicken chipolatas, quiche Lorraine, birchermuesli, yoghurt, fruit platter, honey, Hero jam, and a variety of breads.



**When:** Sunday, 5 November 2017, 9.30 to 11.30 am

**Where:** The Austrian Club, 20 Grattan Crescent, Frenchs Forest NSW 2086

**Cost:** Non-members to pay \$30/person, members to pay \$25/person, children between 4-12 years old to pay \$12.00/person

**Payment:** Either cash on the day (correct amount would be appreciated) OR direct deposit into our bank account (details listed below):

**Account Name:** Swiss Club NSW

**Account BSB:** 112879 | **Account Number:** 061587992

**RSVP:** Bookings are essential. Please contact Daniel Frutiger on 0403 502 048 or email [dan.mar04@bigpond.com](mailto:dan.mar04@bigpond.com) to confirm your attendance and payment option.

## Swiss Jassers Christmas at the Royal Hotel Leichhardt

Join us for the last get together for the year at the Leichhardt Hotel to celebrate a fantastic end to 2017. To get in the Christmas spirit, the SCNSW will gift you a traditional säckli of quality nuts, biscuits and chocolates. We will then have dinner in the restaurant (to be paid on an individual basis).

**When:** Monday, 18 December 2017 from 18:30

**Where:** The Royal Hotel Leichhardt,  
156 Norton St,  
Leichhardt NSW 2040

**Cost:** Free. Food and beverages are to be paid on an individual basis at the Leichhardt Hotel restaurant.

**RSVP:** Bookings are essential.  
Please contact Daniel Frutiger on 0403 502 048 or email [dan.mar04@bigpond.com](mailto:dan.mar04@bigpond.com) to confirm your attendance and payment option.



# Armin Albert Roth 14 July 1936 to 13 July 2017

A "Celebration of Armin's Life" was held at the Concordia Club in Tempe on 20 July 2017. Armin Roth had passed away a day before his 81st birthday, some two months after having been diagnosed with multiple inoperable brain tumours. More than 300 people crowded into the Club to farewell an exceptional man. Among them were family and friends, members of the Swiss community, and colleagues from a career spanning nearly 50 years with Henry Schein Halas Dental.

Speakers included work colleagues and associates, Michael Clavin, Hamish Shah, Phil Jolly and David Wing. Swiss community speakers included Daniel Frutiger, President of the Swiss Club of NSW; Uschy Suter, Treasurer of the Swiss Community Care Society and Peter Meury, longtime friend and former President of the Swiss Community Care Society. Last but not least were words from his children and one of his granddaughters from Switzerland. The President of the Concordia Club, Karl-Heinz Füsting, opened proceedings with a heartfelt eulogy on Armin's lasting legacy and the immense knowledge and generosity he showed when working with different communities.

Summaries of some of the speeches follow:

## Armin's Personal Life, delivered by his children and granddaughter.

Armin Roth, the fourth son of Carl Josef Roth and Anna Merz, was born in Zürich on 14 July 1936. He grew up in the heart of the old town which then housed mainly tradesmen, who fascinated Armin. His first paid job as a boy was delivering newspapers. He took pride in learning the nooks and crannies of his city. After completing compulsory schooling, he began an apprenticeship in merchant business at Maschinenfabrik Oerlikon, a manufacturing and engineering company. During this period - at age seventeen - he met his future wife, a fellow apprentice, Elisabeth Rey. A year in Lausanne to refine his French followed, and another in London for his English. Armin worked for Foyles Bookstores in the UK which is where he made connections with Australia and was offered a job with Ramsay Surgical. In June, 1960, at the age of 24, Armin embarked at Rotterdam on a ship headed for Melbourne. He asked Elisabeth to accompany him, but she had commitments with family and a sick mother. Two years later, on her 25th birthday, a bouquet of 25 red roses arrived from Armin, and Elisabeth and her mother agreed that it was time for her to join Armin down-under. Meantime, Armin had been transferred to Perth, where they were married in 1964.

The couple settled in Sydney in 1965 after a job offer by Halas



Dental, where Armin worked in various roles until the end of his working life at 73. They had four children, Dominik, Karolina, Caecilia and Veronika, and five lovely granddaughters.

The daughters reflected: Dad was always passionate about his work and travelled frequently. We always looked forward to his returning home, gathering around his open suitcase to see what exotic treasures he had brought back – a geisha doll or Hawaiian bikinis!

We loved to accompany him to the office on Saturdays, where we would sneak into the kitchen to find all

manners of goodies. There were drawers full of teeth and we would play in the dentist's chair. We would try out all the pens, sticky tapes, and every colour of liquid paper. (Belated apologies to those of you who returned to work on Monday to find your stationery wasn't exactly as you left it on Friday!)

Watching the start of the Sydney-Hobart Yacht Race was one of Dad's favourite events. He once confided that, as a boy, he had dreamed of becoming a sailor, traversing the oceans of the world. Dad also had a very selective love of sports. Having played soccer as a boy, the World Cup and FA Cup were key events. When in the hospital, he visibly brightened when we changed channels to the Tour de France.

He had a love of the outdoors, which could lift the heart and sooth the mind. Having grown up by Lake Zurich, Armin was an able swimmer, ever drawn to water. Like him, we all became keen travellers, our own trips inspired by returning to places important because of him: like visiting Foyles bookshop in London; hiking in the Swiss mountains where he toured in his youth; or strolling along the banks of the Limmat and the Altstadt in Zurich, where he grew up.

Every summer, until we started high school, we visited Jindabyne, where we would bushwalk, swim in the lake, admire the hydroelectric plant, and observe the construction of the skitube (featuring Swiss engineers!). We would inspect a trout farm, the thermal pools, and the Yarrangobilly Caves. He climbed Kosciusko every year, usually carrying the smallest among us on his shoulders. We remember every rest stop on the highway from Canberra to the Blue Mountains, to Newcastle. We all share fond memories of Swiss Club events – holidays at the Enzian lodge, preparing for the Swiss Ball, the Grümpeltournier, Metzgete, bushwalks, Yodlers' picnics, Swiss Christmas at the old Concordia, Sigi's accordion – not to mention packing Swiss Club News magazines, labelling envelopes and filling Santa Sacks!

Our education was important to our parents, who supported





us in whatever direction we chose. Dad was particularly proud when one of us graduated with a diploma or degree. He delighted in giving us an appreciation of fine art and music. He also had an excellent understanding of Swiss and European history, which he drilled into us (especially Die Schlacht am Morgarten!).

## Armin's Professional Life, by Michael Clavin, with comments by Stanley Bergman, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Henry Schein, USA

Armin was widely respected and loved both by colleagues at Henry Schein Halas Dental, as he was by so many in the dental profession. A lifetime member of the Australian Dental Industry Association, he had a wealth of knowledge of the industry and was generous in sharing it.

His commitment to Halas Dental over years was legendary, helping to keep the team together through transitions and takeovers. Armin was deeply admired by colleagues and manufacturing partners for his warmth, kindness, his professionalism and a commitment to excellence.

Colleague, Gordon Anderson, said: "Armin is truly a legend in the dental world, and not just for Australia but the international stage. He was famous for his incredible memory of facts, a phenomenal filing system, and his 'common sense' and kindness. On anything dental—from the obscure to the 'only one ever made'—Armin knew where to find it. Armin was a mentor to many." A colleague, Anita Birkin observed: "Armin is one of few people who could walk the floors of the International Dental Show without a business card. He could only take a few steps before suppliers approached to greet him. Everyone knew Armin, a kind and careful negotiator, his product knowledge was like a walking Google. He will be sorely missed by friends at Henry Schein Halas."

## Armin's Community Life, delivered by Peter Meury, Uschy Suter and Daniel Frutiger

Armin was the President of the Swiss Club of NSW for many years, and the Function Organiser on the Committee for even longer. In the early 1980s, the Swiss Club reintroduced the Swiss National Day Ball. Armin, with the late George Naher and a Ball Chairman, organised the event for a number of years. Armin long dreamed of a licensed Swiss Club in the city for the Community, and a survey put to members of the

Swiss Club offered two options: a Swiss Club in a city building acquired by the Club earlier under his leadership, or a country club/ski lodge. When a ballot was conducted, the younger generation lobbied strongly, and the lodge in Jindabyne won a slim majority, a disappointment to Armin.

Armin regularly contributed thoughtful articles and tributes to the Swiss Community News for which he was a treasure trove of knowledge. His input broadened the contents, added variety and opened the magazine to a wider community, rather than just to the members of the Swiss Club of NSW.

In 1998, Armin joined the Committee in the organisation of the National Swiss Folklore Festival with the participation of a Yodel Club from Switzerland; it was a huge success, though the workload was so immense that nobody has since tried to repeat an event of such scale. A Trustee of the Swiss Community Care Society in 1998, he joined the Committee in 1999 and was elected President in 2009, a position he held till his death. With Peter Meury, Armin worked tirelessly maintaining the society's Berowra property that it inherited in 1989.

Peter Meury declared that Armin exceeded every attribute famously lauded by the 19th Century American poet, Ralph Waldo Emerson:

"...to laugh often and much, to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children, to earn the appreciation of honest critics, to appreciate beauty, to find the best in others, to leave the world a little better place than we found it, in whatever way, to know even one life breathed easier because you lived, this is to have succeeded."

Uschy Suter reflected on an item in the book *The Swiss in New South Wales – A History*, which identified Armin as the Tribal Elder of the Swiss Community. A particularly apt description for the "go-to" man of the community, a figure so singularly informed of the history and background of all things Swiss in Australia. When practically any topic or name arose in conversation, Armin could add detail to any Swiss connection. Moreover, he had the natural talent of a diplomat par excellence with a consistently positive outlook. A figure of strong faith, he was a role model to many.

Until he fell ill, Armin drove every fortnight from Mascot to Blacktown to visit Erna Schweiberer, a 102 year old Swiss woman. He also drove to Frenchs Forest every month to support schoolmate Sigi Achermann and his wife Ruth. An especially moving moment during his final illness was when Beat and Esther Birchmeier, from the Swiss Community Care Society, collected Sigi and Ruth and drove them to Mascot to visit Armin, where they spent a few happy hours in friendship and camaraderie at his home.

Armin Roth was the doyen of the Swiss community for many years and his shoes will be very hard to fill. He will be long remembered as a kind, loyal and generous gentleman, who made a lasting contribution to both the dental field and the community.

Margrit Bachmann  
October 2017

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# Message from the Consulate General of Switzerland in Sydney



Dear President, Committee and Swiss Club Members,

Thank you to the Swiss Club of NSW for this opportunity to write a few words. So here I am writing to say hello to you all and to introduce myself to those of you I have not yet met.

Nigel, my husband, and I arrived in mid-July 2017 from our previous posting. We are both very much looking forward to spending our next few years in Australia.

I was raised in Ebersecken in Switzerland and joined the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs in 1982.

After my consular training in Berne and Venice, I was subsequently transferred to the Swiss consular and diplomatic representations in New York, Rome, Canberra and Santo Domingo. From 1999 to August 2007 I was Deputy Head of Mission, as well as heading the consular and administrative sections of the Swiss Embassies in Wellington and in Maputo. I then spent two years as Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission at the Swiss Embassy in Dublin before being appointed Consul General of Switzerland in Toronto in November 2009. In August 2013 I was transferred to Cape Town and now, in July 2017, I arrived here in Sydney.

Australia is not entirely new to both of us, as I was previously posted in Canberra and met Nigel during that posting. He had been living in Australia for more than ten years before I came along and took him away.


Coming back to this great and beautiful country is - for both of us - a really wonderful opportunity. I have already had the chance to meet some of you at the 1st of August celebrations in Castle Hill and am very much looking forward to meeting and working with you all for the next few years.

Best wishes, Bernadette Hunkeler Brown



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# From the Desk of Anne Held

## The Red and White Ambassador

A young boy named Jean-Claude has come a long way from Porrentruy in the Swiss canton of Jura to become a City of Sydney Cruise Ship Ambassador. The adventure started at the hotel of his mother's uncle, where he often helped out with various tasks till he definitely decided that hotels were where he wanted to make a career. As a good Swiss citizen, he absolved his military service, then successfully studied at the prestigious Ecole Hôtelière de Lausanne, and finally started his first job in a hotel in Villars. Over the next few years, work took him to Saudi Arabia and then back to Geneva as Food and Beverage Manager at the famous Hotel des Bergues, where he met many VIPs and representatives of large international organisations.

In 1985, recruited by the Intercontinental chain, he arrived in Sydney. Being involved with the opening of a local new 5-star hotel represented a big challenge, but Jean-Claude was also attracted by the beautiful historic building and its mix with a modern annex. But it was less than one year later that he moved north, when a new posting as Assistant General Manager was created especially for him, on tropical Hayman Island, re-opening as a brand new resort after a complete reconstruction.

The next step was going back to reality after island 'troppo' life. Once again recruited, in 1990 he became Resident Manager at today's Four Seasons Hotel (then The Regent), a venue which has also seen some of our Swiss National Day Balls.

Jean-Claude's career did not end there. Thanks to his great experience, he was called to open the new Rex Hotel in Potts Point, then to run the 4-star Coogee Sands Hotel and Apartments, and help out YWCA with the management of its 2 Y hotels as well as with their preparations for a major refurbishment. In between, he managed to take charge of the operations for the late Italian fashion designer Gianni Versace Exhibition in Sydney in 2000.

Now it's time to take it easier and Jean-Claude has retired from his career as hotelier. But that doesn't mean he sits around in slippers and watches TV. Oh no! Travel is his passion, and for several months each year, he explores new territories. One of his other hobbies can easily be combined with his trips, he is also a keen photographer and wherever he goes, he tries to catch the essence of a place, the local vibe. He says 'I am not that interested in animals, but people and typical scenes of the places we visit, the history of the moment.'



Incidentally, I can tell you another secret about Jean-Claude: he makes his own sourdough bread. And sings in a choir. And is a volunteer at Life House in Camperdown, where help and assistance is given to cancer patients and their families.

Besides all these activities, Jean-Claude feels he would like to share and give back some of his knowledge and experiences acquired over all those years in the hospitality industry. For this reason, in 2016 he joined an exciting project launched by the City of Sydney, together with Destination NSW and Sydney Ports: Cruise Ship Ambassador.

According to Port Authority of NSW, a record 344 cruise ships (up from 311 last season) visited Sydney in the 2016/2017 season, meaning that about half a million passengers arrived on the city's shores either at the Overseas Passengers Terminal in the Rocks or the White Bay Cruise Terminal in Rozelle. Certainly a highlight for Sydney was the arrival of the newly launched mega liner 'Ovation of the Seas', a 348m long and 168'000 tonnes vessel, carrying some 5'000 passengers. It is a fact that cruising is a major tourism sector in Australia, and Sydney has become a very popular destination for international visitors. Yes, Australians also love to cruise, however, it is mostly the visitors from other countries near and far who need advice and information when they first arrive here. This is where the Ambassadors step in. They are specially trained volunteers and greet the ships at the terminals, armed with brochures and maps, a friendly smile and keen to pass on their extensive local knowledge. Jean-Claude is one on the team of about 80 Ambassadors and just loves his activities. The three most asked common questions asked are: Wi-Fi? ATM? Luggage? But after that, the visitors are grateful to get tips on shopping and playing, on world class restaurants and bars, on sightseeing and museums and theatres and parks, and maybe even hidden little secrets off the beaten track or in the neighbourhood of one of the Ambassadors. Between October 2017 and April 2018, you might see a tall gentleman in a fetching uniform of a wide brimmed white hat and red shirt (incidentally the official Swiss colours) down at the OPT. Ask him anything about Sydney, it can also be in French or German or Italian, find out where Jean-Claude Niederer wants you to go and experience what our city has to offer and give you the best options of how to use your available time.

Anne Held was the first General Manager of SwissCham and currently multilingual tour guide for international visitors in Sydney. **[heldanne@yahoo.com](mailto:heldanne@yahoo.com)**



# The Swiss Yodlers

At the Yodlers' annual Swiss National Day celebration the sun shone brightly, the wind blew gustily and the crowd came willingly!

What a wonderful day it was being able to welcome our newly arrived, first female Consul General, Mrs Bernadette Hunkeler Brown, and her husband, Nigel, to this Yodlers community event.

With a new-look band in place, the stage was set for an inclusive celebration with stalls run by various groups from our local community as well as local Swiss market stalls.

The day could not come together without the help of our hard-working volunteers and the generosity of our sponsors, who make this day possible.

The Yodlers performed at the SCCS 1st August luncheon for the Swiss seniors at the Concordia Club in Tempe and will do so again for their annual Christmas luncheon on Saturday, 25th November 2017.

Our next function will be the annual harbour cruise to be held on Sunday, 25th February, 2018.



*Bernadette Hunkeler Brown at the Swiss National Day*



## 50 Years Swiss Yodlers Sydney 50 Jahre Schweizer Jodler Sydney

Dear Friends / Liebe Freunde,

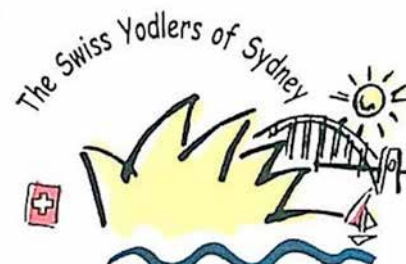
The Swiss Yodlers Sydney are turning 50!

Die Schweizer Jodler Sydney werden 50!

We are organising a three-day celebration of this significant event.

Wir planen ein dreitägiges Fest, um dieses wichtige Ereignis zu feiern.

**Save the date: / Bitte vormerken: 28/29/30 September 2018**



# Council Meeting of the Swiss Abroad



*Katja Wallimann Gates*

The four Australian CSA Delegates, duly elected in June 2017, were officially inducted at the Council Meeting of the Swiss Abroad on 18 August 2017 Basel.

About 50% of the worldwide 140 Delegates were said to be new members to the Council, so, a lot of "get-to-know each other" went on to make new acquaintances.

The newly elected Delegate from Brisbane is Mrs Katja Wallimann Gates, and the three incumbents: Carmen Trochsler (Adelaide), Roland Isler (Melbourne), Beat Knoblauch (Sydney).

The meeting wanted to hear from the Australian experience, i.e. how the direct electronic voting system worked for the selection of candidates, then for the elections themselves: in a massive effort, all those Swiss registered with the Swiss General Consulate in Sydney with an email address were informed by several emails by the ASO and the Consulate General on the forthcoming election and presented the eight candidates and relevant voting papers. Participation worked out to be some 7.5 % of those eligible to vote, which is a good start for a new voting system. It also

proved that the electronic voting system was easy to handle. The Canton of Geneva was very helpful in making the system available to us.

At ASO level, the debate is still on whether only those Swiss Abroad registered to vote in Switzerland are eligible to vote on ASO Delegates, or, as in the test case Australia, whether all Swiss registered with an email address with the Consulate General should be able to vote: I argued a strong case for the Australian experience, as it is a different matter whether you vote on Swiss matters or whether you elect your direct Representative at ASO level.

The Basel meeting endorsed strongly various motions, measures as to the ever burning issue of Bank Accounts of the Swiss Abroad: subsequently, Parliament passed various initiatives, thus proving that a concerted effort and continuous pressure on the Parliamentarians ultimately bring some result. But not all political parties in Switzerland actively support the Swiss Abroad issues, some are vehemently against. Your Delegate made the suggestion to the ASO Committee to work out a table for the next Federal Elections in 2018, to list those parties endorsing or not endorsing or supporting the causes of the Swiss Abroad, after all, some 775'000 Swiss Abroad can make a difference at the ballot box!! Progress is also noted in the number of Cantons enabling e-voting.

Generally, the Press in Switzerland was made aware of the plight of the Swiss Abroad and was reasonably supportive. The ASO in Berne is our best lobbying organisation and let's make good use of that!

The next CSA meeting will take place in Berne on Saturday, 10 March 2018, and the Congress of the Swiss Abroad will take place from 10–12 August 2018 in Visp (Valais). I plan to be there!

Beat Knoblauch



*Carmen Trochsler*



*Roland Isler*



*Beat Knoblauch*





# Cercle Romand

Last Sunday, 15th October, we held a social gathering at the pub for the Cercle Romand members and friends. We ventured out northwest of Sydney to the Fiddler's Pub in Rouse Hill.

It was lovely to catch up over lunch and enjoy a leisurely Sunday afternoon.

The next and final event of the year will be the end of year dinner. This will be held at the Oaks Hotel in Neutral Bay on Thursday 30th November. Members are requested to book for this event.

The calendar of events for 2018 will be released in late November. Make sure you visit the Cercle Romand webpage to get all the latest events, photos, and information.

**[www.cercleromand.com.au](http://www.cercleromand.com.au)**

Anne Resplendino  
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# In this series the Swiss Community News look at the fascinating lives, experiences and motivations of Swiss immigrants.

**Ruth Achermann** has been an active member of the Swiss Club almost since the day she arrived in Sydney. She is well known for the work and boundless energy for the Swiss Club and Swiss Care Community.

*What made you come to Australia?*

My husband, Sigi had a two years' contract as an engineer with a Swiss company for a butter factory in Granville. When Sigi's company found out that he wanted to emigrate, they offered him this job in Australia. We arrived in Sydney in September 1959 by boat in first class. It was a wonderful trip. We had a stop-over in Egypt and rode on camels to the pyramids. We were young, just married and had been living in Geneva in a furnished unit. We had no furniture, only a fondue set and a few knives and forks.

After we arrived in Sydney we joined the Swiss Club in Stanmore and a few months later we were already managing it. Sigi played the accordion and I did the baking. The club was on the ground floor and we lived upstairs. It was a magnificent Federation building with a big lawn on the side. The members came every Wednesday to eat Buendnerfleisch or sausages with bread rolls or Nussgipfel. We also had ladies' lunches and I remember that there were a group of women who had arrived in the 1920s to do embroidery for a St. Gallen company. One of them brought me the book "Lady Chatterley's lover" which was banned in Australia, so she discreetly handed it to me in a paper bag. One day somebody came with a kangaroo skin and we told him that we would like to have one of these. We didn't hear anything for a long time until we received a phone call from the airport telling us that the kangaroo had arrived. I was wondering, what's going on? When we arrived at the airport, sure enough, there was a kangaroo, a joey, a real one, in a hessian bag. We were in shock, didn't know what to do. These Swiss guys had shot the mother and then sent us the



joey. We took it home and let it hop around on the lawn. It was adorable. But when it grew too big we gave it to a Swiss couple in the Blue Mountains. They already had a few kangaroos on their property and were happy to take care of it.

But then the Swiss Club got into trouble. We had quite a few functions like the Fasnacht where lots of people came, and they were noisy. Sometimes we had a full house with 50-60 people. You know, in those days the pubs closed at 6 o'clock and on weekends nothing was open so the Swiss definitely turned up. The neighbours complained because we were in a residential area so eventually the Club had to sell the place. With the money they bought a huge property in King Street in the city. Do you know what they then did? The committee sold that place and bought a ski lodge but it never worked. It was a huge mistake. Imagine how much the property in King Street would be worth these days! From then on they changed the Club laws so that all members, not only the committee, had a say in these things.

*Where did you live after the Swiss Club building was sold?*

We were building our house in Cabramatta where we had bought a block of land of about 900 m<sup>2</sup>. It was difficult to get a mortgage but finally we got it from a

building society. The builder was ok, he was Italian. It was a two-storey house with a big backyard and lots of fruit trees. Three years later we built a swimming pool. We were the first to build there. It used to be a farm that had been subdivided into building lots. Cabramatta in 1959 was way out in the countryside, a long way from the city. A lot of Germans and Italians were living there. Some Italians had market gardens and orchards. The Germans and Austrians built a big club house and we were members for quite a few years.

Our two boys went to a Catholic school which had an excellent reputation. The Kindergarten classes were run by nuns and the seniors by the Patrician Brothers. I used to make aprons for the school, Gugelhopf and cakes for fundraising events. The biggest nightmare came when I received a phone call from the school. Our 12 year old son, Michael had fallen down the stairs and was now in Liverpool hospital. He spent the next three months with his legs suspended and hips in plaster. Luckily he fully recovered and even continued to play football. We lived in Cabramatta for 40 years. It changed a lot after the Vietnam War in the '70s when the Vietnamese refugees arrived and slowly took over the shops and businesses.

*You have always been very busy. What exactly did you do?*

There wasn't a Swiss Care Society when we moved to Cabramatta but I knew quite a few elderly Swiss people, particularly the ladies in Ingleburn who used to come to the Club for lunches. I did the shopping for them once a fortnight. There was also a chap in a retirement village and another one in Parramatta who I visited regularly. I was also selling Swiss specialities like cheese, chocolate and Aromat at Club events. I knew an importer so we got everything from him. One day we even got "Mohrenköpfe" or "tete de negre". I had gone to a food exhibition and there was this man selling them, beautifully packed, like the ones in





Ruth with Sigi

Switzerland. I nearly fell over. He was from Eastern Europe and made them himself at his home in Sutherland. I ordered a few dozens for the next Swiss picnic. They sold out in a flash.

Like Sigi, I was employed by a food company in their cheese department. In fact, Sigi was officially my boss. I had a top job only working three days a week and never during school holidays. I had to

organise cheese degustations and make sure the sales girls were set up in the shops. I had girls in all the big suburbs and every Thursday and Friday they were handing out samples. The first day I started work, I was supposed to set up the table at their Liverpool store but that very morning the shop burned down to the ground. All the time I was travelling around a lot on public transport. One day my regular bus driver,



an Italian, mentioned that he had a driving school. I wanted to learn to drive so he came to our house with this blasted Holden, a manual which I couldn't handle. The following week he brought an automatic car; it was bliss.

When the company sold its cheese packaging division and the new owner subsequently closed down, Sigi decided to continue. He bought a second hand food packaging machine from an Italian coffee shop owner and with a business partner set

up a factory in Yagoona, near Bankstown. His wife did the paperwork and I helped downstairs on the factory floor. It was hard work, especially in the beginning but very rewarding. We sold the business in 2002, our house in Cabramatta a year later and then moved to Allambie Heights.

Yes, I have been busy all my life.

*Was it difficult to move from Cabramatta to Allambie Heights after 40 years?*

I have no regrets about moving into the retirement village. We already knew some residents here from our time in Cabramatta.

Soon after we moved into our unit, I took over the kiosk from a German woman who had retired. We did well, it was a good business. A lot of Germans came, also from outside, to buy specialities like chocolate and marzipan. Eventually, I had to give up because of health issues. I had a big operation where I lost one kidney. That was about seven years ago and took me a long time to recover.

Sigi gave up his driver's licence but I am still driving. I have a little car and drive to Aldi every two weeks or to the little shopping centre down the road. Here at the retirement village I help a few elderly ladies and I have also done a lot of bush regeneration. There is now a lovely bush track right next to our unit. We go for a walk every day or just sit on the balcony to enjoy the afternoon sun.

Text and photos: Gabi Muff



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# How long before all Swiss expats can use e-voting?



*E-voting is popular among the Swiss, but concerns about data security has slowed down progress* **(tudmeak/123RF)**

The use of electronic voting in Switzerland has been making slow progress amid setbacks over security concerns. The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) is pushing for the introduction of e-voting for all Swiss expats by the next parliamentary elections in October 2019.

Critics complain that the number of cantons offering their registered Swiss citizens abroad the option of e-voting falls short of expectations.

In all, 775,000 Swiss citizens live overseas and if you consider that e-voting trials using online technology have been underway since 2004, the number of potential beneficiaries is rather modest.

About 158,000 expats from eight cantons (see map below) have the option of participating in the September 24 votes on the controversial old age pension reform, food security and some cantonal issues using a secure computer programme. Eighteen other cantons, including the populous cantons of Zurich and Vaud, do not offer e-voting.

Last April, the government decided to gradually expand e-voting, giving it a solid legal basis beyond the trial phase.

The 26 cantons are responsible for implementing an e-vote system, while the Federal Chancellery is merely coordinating and overseeing the introduction.

## Swiss expats – all Swiss?

In theory, all citizens – both abroad and Swiss-based - should be allowed to use e-voting one day. At the moment, the goal is for at least two-thirds of the country's 26 cantons to have e-voting in place by 2019, according to Federal Chancellor Walter Thurnherr.

The OSA is more ambitious. It wants all cantons to offer their registered Swiss expats the possibility to cast their vote electronically by the same date.

Two years ago, the organisation appeared to be on track with more than half the Swiss cantons offering e-voting. But in August 2015 the government put the brakes on, blocking the use of an e-vote system developed by a United States IT company.

The government said the system had serious security flaws and failed to guarantee voting secrecy. Critics have also raised concerns about attacks by computer hackers trying to manipulate the result of a vote or an election.

## Popular

Currently two certified systems – one developed by a Spanish company on behalf of Swiss Post and another by canton Geneva - are in operation. Both are competing to win additional contracts from the cantons which have not yet decided.

Voting online enjoys considerable popularity. A survey published by the Centre for Democracy Studies a year ago, found that more than two out of three respondents would like to see e-voting for all citizens.

For its part, the government says 67% Swiss expats voting in nationwide ballots prefer e-voting over other options. This means that they do not have to come back to Switzerland to cast their vote at a polling station or send in their ballot sheets through the post and risk missing the deadline.

*(Source: [swissinfo.ch](http://www.swissinfo.ch)/urs; website:*

**<http://www.swissinfo.ch> / Sep 16, 2017)**



# Culi-Temp Corner

## Australia's Independent Brewing Boom

The number of independent brewing companies operating in Australia has tenfold over the last decade, even the newly refurbished local clubs have now their own Brewery and sell it on tap. Gone are the days where you have just the most common beer brands on offer, cleverly promoted local brews are ready to meet the current trend.

In 2016, there were just 30 independent brewing industries which have blown to a staggering 380 just 10 years later, highlighting the trend in small to large operations. 65% of all independent brewers are located in either regional or rural Australia which provides much

needed employment in regional or remote areas. It seems that most young patrons are in favour of these changes and support the idea, even though only 3% of beer consumed nationwide comes from independent breweries. Local clubs have spent a lot of money to set up their own breweries in the hope customers will support them for the long haul. In order to continue to grow the independent brewing sector in line with similar examples overseas, improved Government support is required in terms of current tax setting with regards to lowering excise levels and providing subsidies similar to these assisting small wine producers.



Beer Batter: serves 6

### Ingredients

- 6 flathead fillets
- 250 self-rising flour
- Extra virgin olive oil
- 125 ml light beer
- Sea salt black pepper
- 250 ml cold water
- 12 lemon slices

## Culi-Temp Recipe

### Flathead fillets in Beer Batter

#### Method

To make the batter, whisk all ingredients until smooth. Cover and refrigerate overnight (best results).

Dip the fish fillets into the batter to coat and fry until golden brown on both sides. Place cooked fillets on paper to drain while you cook the next batch. Serve the battered flathead with salt and pepper. Flathead fillets are expensive but can easily be substituted with any white fish fillets. Serve with a mixed salad to enjoy something simple and fresh for the warmer days to come.

En guete!

**By Daniel Frutiger**

# SwissCham Australia and Swiss Entrepreneurs

SwissCham Australia and the Swiss Entrepreneurs together with Alumni from the University of Zurich welcomed our new Consul General of Switzerland, Mrs Bernadette Hunkeler Brown, at a recent event at the Radisson Hotel in Sydney. Bernadette immediately mixed with the large crowd and we all had a most enjoyable and well attended networking event. SwissMix!



Mario Bassi, Martin Scarpino, Urs Schaller, Peter Pluess with Bernadette Hunkeler Brown



Alois Kretz, David Hulme, Norbert Schweizer OAM & Brigitte Banziger



**swiss** entrepreneurs  
australia



**SwissCham**  
AUSTRALIA

## Members' Corner

A warm welcome to our new members:

Renate and Clint Joung  
Philippe Wittwer  
Andre Braun  
Regula Augustin  
Lynda and Mike Thomas  
Jarrad Kennedy  
Rhys Kennedy

We look forward to seeing you at Swiss Club events.



**We wish all our members a Merry Christmas and a happy 2018!**

## Swiss Wanderlust

Silvia Schoch, a Swiss-born writer, editor, and photographer, is the founder of Swiss Wanderlust:

**(<http://swisswanderlust.com/>)**

a Swiss travel and culture guide. Silvia has put together a fascinating and growing collection of genuine, thoughtful, one-of-a-kind snapshots about Switzerland, its people and culture. Silvia's website and online newsletters are filled with light-hearted stories, intermingled with important stories that are serious. Her issues focus on the current pulse of a country with a long history in the heart of Europe.





## PIPILOTTI RIST

### Sip my Ocean

1 NOVEMBER 2017 -  
18 FEBRUARY 2018

Pipilotti Rist was born in Grabs, Rhine Valley, Switzerland, in 1962. The second of five children, her given name is Elisabeth Charlotte Rist. When she left home at 19 she began introducing herself as Pipilotti. This was a combination of her childhood nicknames – Lotti, from her second name, and Pippi, after the children's book character Pippi Longstocking, known for her quirky character and extraordinary strength.

Rist studied at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna and Basel School of Design. She rose to prominence in the mid-1980s and 1990s with her single-channel videos, including *I'm Not The Girl Who Misses Much* (1986) and *Pickelporno (Pimple Porno)* (1992). Her work *Ever Is Over All* (1997) was awarded the Premio 2000 for outstanding achievement at the Venice Biennale in 1997. In 2009 she was awarded the Joan Miró Prize by the Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona for her outstanding creativity. For her first feature film, *Pepperminta* (2009), Rist won the Extraordinary Award from the President of the panel of judges of the sixth Seville European Film Festival in Spain, and in 2010 the Cutting the Edge Award from the Miami International European Film Festival. In 2012 Rist was awarded the Harper's Bazaar China Art Prize; in 2013 the Zurich Festival Prize; and in 2014 the Prix Meret Oppenheim.

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## Contact Louise Eckersley

leckersley@entertainmentbook.com.au  
at Entertainment Book.

## Swiss Seniors of the Central Coast and Members of the Swiss Community Care Society

### **Invitation**

**2017 Christmas Cruise to Seven Islands - Tour and Cruise**  
***Thursday, 7th December 2017 departing at 11.00am***

Leaving from Brooklyn Public Wharf. Cruise includes morning tea on arrival, and a Ploughman's lunch. Drinks/bar available on board.

#### *How to get there*

Brooklyn Public Wharf is next to the Hawkesbury River railway station.

**Please note: no elevator, stairs to climb up and down in both directions!**

Trains to take (check times and possible track work before leaving):

From Central in the city departing 09.45am. from platform 12, Arrive Hawkesbury River station at 10.46am.

From Newcastle/Hamilton leaving at 08.36 am. arriving Hawkesbury River 10.24am.

*Car parking available near Brooklyn Public Wharf.*

#### *Cost (same as last year):*

\$20 for Members of the Swiss Community Care Society and Swiss Seniors over the age of 65 (subsidised by the SCCS), \$45 for other participants/Seniors.

Please book as early as possible with the slip below, either by email to [petermeury@bigpond.com](mailto:petermeury@bigpond.com), or by phone to 0243 884809, indicating numbers attending, their names and first names (for name tags), and details of payment.  
**(Latest booking Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> November 2017)**

Payment by cheque (preferred) made out to the SCCS and sent to Peter Meury, 139/220 Hansens Road, Tumby Umbi NSW 2261. Or cash on the day of the cruise.

**Bring along your sunhat, sun cream, and good humour for a great day!**

See you all on the 7th December in Christmas spirit!

*Peter Meury*

---

*Please detach and return to arrive **at latest by 29<sup>th</sup> November 2017***

Name and contact (email, address and phone number)

.....  
.....

I wish to participate at the Hawkesbury Cruise on 7th December 2017.

How many attending.....Payment by cheque/cash on day.....\$.....

**Send to Peter Meury 139/220 Hansens Road, Tumby Umbi NSW 2261**



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[www.shooting.org.au](http://www.shooting.org.au)

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*Organiser*

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### CERCLE ROMAND

ANNE RESPLENDINO

*President*

T: 9874 9096

## OTHER

### SWISS RADIO - ECHO HELVETICA

ADRIAN PLITZCO

*Presenter - SBS FM 97.7*

T: (03) 9949 2121

SUNDAY 7:45PM - 8:00PM

### FRENCH SPEAKING RADIO

MARIE THERESE BARBE

*Presenter - 2RRR 88.5 FM*

T: 0419 219 374

TUESDAY 9:00PM - 10:30PM

### SWISS INTERNATIONAL AIRLINE REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE

SWITZERLAND TOURISM

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Bondi Junction NSW 2022

Postal: PO Box 282

Bondi Junction NSW 1355

T: 02 8866 3420

E: [st\\_au@switzerland.com](mailto:st_au@switzerland.com)

W: [www.myswitzerland.com](http://www.myswitzerland.com)

### CONSULATE GENERAL OF SWITZERLAND

101 Grafton Street, Tower 2, Level 23,

Bondi Junction NSW 2022

P.O. Box 282, Bondi Junction NSW 1355

T: 8383 4000

E: [sydney@eda.admin.ch](mailto:sydney@eda.admin.ch)

W: [www.eda.admin.ch/sydney](http://www.eda.admin.ch/sydney)

OPENING HOURS:

MONDAY - FRIDAY: 9.00AM - 12.00PM



# Application Form - Swiss Club of NSW



Swiss Club of NSW Limited  
PO Box 3292  
Bangor NSW 2234 ABN 73 000 650 037

## APPLICATION FORM FOR MEMBERSHIP 1/4/2017 – 31/3/2018

Main Applicant

Partner

I / We (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms)  
(Please use block letters)

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Given Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(full residential address with postcode)

Phone private: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone business: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: (please list both for partner membership)

Are you a Swiss citizen?

YES / NO

Is your partner a Swiss citizen?

YES / NO

Are your parents Swiss citizens?

YES / NO

Are your partner's parents Swiss citizens?

YES / NO

Do you have children? If yes, how many and what age?

Additional information re Swiss heritage / interests (Swiss Playgroup, Yodlers, Cercle du Romand etc)

I/we hereby apply for membership of the Swiss Club of New South Wales Limited, and if admitted, request you to enter my name on the Register of members. I/we agree to be bound by the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Club and the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations in force.

☐ M Ordinary member

\$46.00 (including enrolment)

☐ P Partner / couple membership

\$66.00 (including enrolment)

Cost:

Enrolment fee: \$11.00

Annual Subscription Single: \$35.00

Annual Subscription Couple: \$55.00

Payment to:

Account Name: Swiss Club of NSW

BSB: 112-879

Account No: 061-587-992

☐ I/We are happy to receive the Swiss Community News magazine in digital format (please tick if appropriate)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Applicants: \_\_\_\_\_

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY (The committee complete this section)

I propose the above applicant for membership of the Swiss Club

Signature of Proposer: \_\_\_\_\_

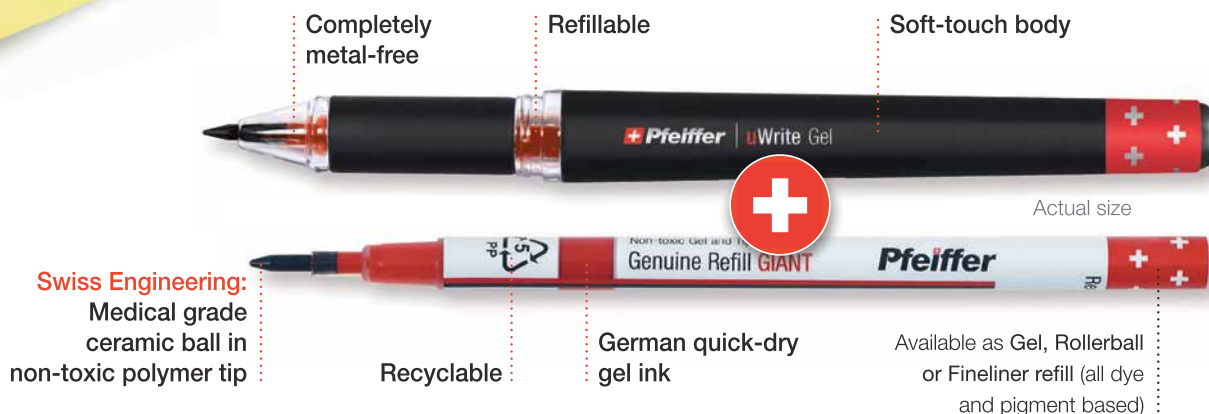
I second the above application for membership of the Club

Signature of Seconder: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send the completed form with your payment to the address mentioned above.**

Detox  
my desk!

# This pen has it all!



## Pfeiffer uWrite – the only pen that puts it all together:

- First ever ceramic ball tip in polymer housing, for the ultimate super smooth writing experience just *like writing with melted Swiss chocolate*
- The robust ABS body features the latest in eco-friendly soft-touch coating, offering a unique haptic experience, plus it's finger print resistant.
- Non-toxic, CE-certified and ultra-quick-drying gel ink made in Germany with outstanding brilliance and viscosity.
- The only roller/ball pen free from metal parts. Great for the environment.
- The only refill that can be recycled as a whole (made from PP =1 recycling category).
- Recycling, Re-use and Responsibility all wrapped into one.



Non-toxic  
+ PLUS recycle  
+ PLUS refill!



uWrite is the superb writing instrument destined to outlast all your other pens – thanks to high capacity refills that are fitted in seconds – it's an instant new pen instead of adding to toxic landfill. Because every refill is 100% fully recyclable.

From the beautiful satin-suede finish to inherent balance and substantial width, this is a pen that makes a statement. The ceramic ball ensures a rich and smooth ink flow usually found on pens many times the price. In fact, everyone we have shown this pen to has refused to give it back.

**Pfeiffer** = Swiss company + clever design + great value

Our uWrite Gel pens have now been released in Australia with Rollerballs and Fineliners almost here! And on this occasion we have a Special for SCN readers: Receive **20% off your purchase** on our website [au.pfeifferoffice.com](http://au.pfeifferoffice.com) by entering promo code **SCN2017** on checkout! Offer ends 31 January 2018.

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Christmas!



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