

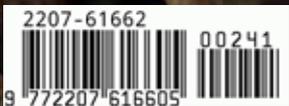


Swiss Community News

Swiss Club of New South Wales November 2020 / 241 www.swissclubnsw.com



*New Year's Chlausen
Festival in Appenzell*



#SWISSCLUBNSW

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

2020/21 Calendar

Email us your calendar entries to swisscommunitynews@gmail.com if you'd like to be included in the next edition.

November	Thursday, 19th	SCCS Volunteers Night, Balgowlah Golf Club, 6.30 pm
	Thursday, 26th	Swiss Seniors of the Central Coast and CCCS Christmas Cruise on Brisbane Waters (see invitation in this issue)
December	Thursday, 3rd	SCCS Christmas Luncheon at Concordia Club, Tempe
	Sunday, 6th	Samichlaus, Robson Park Haberfield (information TBA in Newsflash)
February	Sunday, 7th, 14th or 21st	Cercle Romand Annual Petanque and Bruch (information TBA)
March 2021	Sunday 14th	SCNSW Free Swiss BBQ at Bronte Beach from 11.00 am

**Due to Covid-19 most events have had to be cancelled or postponed.
Please check with your club for any updates.**

The Jassers meet every Monday night at The Matterhorn,
1305 Pacific Highway, 2074 Turramurra from 6.30 pm



Meet up at Frenchs Forest

with Swiss from the Northern Beaches & surrounding suburbs
every second Friday of the month at The Austrian Club, 20 Grattan Crescent Frenchs Forest, from 7 pm
for a meal, a drink, a chat or a Jass – come along. Contact Sigi Achermann on 9451 6018

Support your Club and advertise via our exciting online platforms: many opportunities available via our website and direct email Newsflash to hundreds of contacts. Enquiries to info@swissclubnsw.com.

Next deadline for issue #242 is 3rd February for the March 2021 issue.

Please email your contributions to swisscommunitynews@gmail.com with articles of approximately 600 words and images of minimum 300dpi.

Editor, Layout & Design: Barbara Koepfel | Printer: Minuteman Press - Claudio Tello

Front cover: Silversterchläuse. Image courtesy of Appenzellerland Tourismus

“Silvesterchlausen” is a unique winter festival with pagan roots, celebrated in a few towns in the Canton of Appenzell Ausserrhoden. “Silvesterchlausen” takes place on New Years Eve (31 December) as well as on the Old New Year on January 13 (Gregorian Calendar). All masques are traditionally worn by men. The “beautiful Clausen” wear richly decorated women’s dresses, the “ugly” ones shaggy twig coats and demon masques, and the “ugly-beautiful” or forest-nature spirits wear a mix of both. All of them carry bells. The “Schelli” wear large cow bells (the bells weigh up to 30 kg) and carry them around all day (quite a demanding task), whereas the “Rolli” or “Rollwieber” (Rolli women) wear smaller “bullet-bells” on two leather straps on the front and back of their torso.

Image on page 3 by Edmond Thommen, **image back cover:** Jacaranda trees in Grafton

President's Message

Dear members and friends,

The Board of Directors hope that you and your family have been well during these unusual and difficult times. The NSW government has done an excellent job in tracking community transmission figures and ensuring social distancing practices are enforced. In doing so, we have seen record low numbers of cases in NSW over the past weeks.

In anticipation that some events may return to normal in NSW, the Swiss Club has decided to go forward with the Children's Samichlaus event. As you would expect, we will ensure social distancing measures and hygiene practices are enforced during the event in accordance with state government rules and regulations. We hope that the maximum number of 20 people for an outdoor gathering will be increased or lifted, so as to allow more members to attend the event. However, we will only know in due time. The event will be held again in Robson Park, Haberfield on Sunday, 6 December, where there will be sufficient space and shade for everyone. More information will be provided in the November/December eNewsflash.

The Swiss Club is planning and looking forward to offering members a full program with the return of popular events in 2021. So, please keep posted for more information in due time.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all parents, children and the elderly who were indeed challenged in staying indoors, away from their usual activities, over the past several months. I would also like to thank all the people who visited the lonely and vulnerable individuals within our community to brighten their day during these times.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Sydney 2000 Olympic and Paralympics Games. It feels just like yesterday that Brigitte McMahon won gold at the Women's individual Triathlon, or Cathy Freeman won gold at the Women's 400 m. To celebrate the occasion, Martin Frutiger and Anne Held have edited rare footage featuring two reception events for the Swiss Teams taken in September and October 2000. The footage was provided by SRG SSR. The video can be seen on YouTube and in the October eNewsflash that has been sent out. I extend a huge thank you to both Martin and Anne for working hard to making this footage available for all to enjoy. It is encouraging to see that most sporting facilities that were built for the summer 2000 Olympics are still being used today. The same

cannot be said for some other countries, so well done to Sydney for having the foresight when designing and building these structures.

Anne Held has also written a wonderful article in this edition of the Swiss Community News (SCN) about her interview with the owners of the newly opened Matterhorn, Swiss Restaurant in Turrumurra. Since opening in June of this year, Roland and Liarne Schai have made fantastic renovations and decorations under the professional expertise of Anne Resplendo, interior decorator extraordinaire.

The Auslandschweizer-Organisation (ASO) team have been active during the past few months with meetings, reports and updates here in Australia and abroad. All local and international communications have been organised online with great success. You can read the full report in this SCN edition from the Victorian delegate Roland Isler.

Opening of the 'Trans-Tasman Bubble' with New Zealand will help to secure the next Oceania Swiss Club Presidents' Conference in Auckland, this had to be rescheduled to 2021. The Swiss Consul-General's office in Sydney has been very busy over the last few months dealing with the effects of COVID-19 on both travelling Swiss and locals. Well done to the Swiss Consulate team who, despite working under rigid regulations and unusual conditions, have done an excellent job in helping stranded Swiss citizens getting back home safely, and individuals who have been in financial distress after losing their jobs and much more.

Let's hope we all can go back to normal soon and enjoy what this great country of ours has to offer. Until then, I wish you all the best and look forward to seeing some of you again in person soon.

You're President,

Daniel Frutiger



Swiss Community Care Society (SCCS)

50 years in the service of Swiss expatriates



The year 1970 – Swiss expatriates of Sydney are considering the question of assistance in cases of possible mishaps such as catastrophies, bush fires, war or even simply personal bad luck. On the other hand, Australia is not a Third World Country where there is a lot of poverty. Hence the other dimension – whilst most Swiss may not be poor, they are now living longer, may become frail or lonely. One of the founding fathers was the legendary George Naher (see also the book by Gaby Naher – *The Truth about My Fathers*, a memoir). who served Australia in Borneo and became actively involved with the war widows' organisation Legacy. He was also a charter member of the Lions Club of the City of Sydney. This gave him insight into personal tragedies and hardships. The Swiss Benevolent Society was established, a Committee was set up, and its main activity at that time consisted of a Ladies' assistance group headed by George. In those days there were no mobile phones – contacts were by landline and personal visits. Occasionally and from time to time there were cases of personal misfortune, for instance the Swiss who lost everything during a bushfire. He was also assisted financially.

The Berowra Home in Helvetia Avenue

One of the elderly widows suffered from a serious car accident - Anna-Marie Naegeli of Berowra who owned a home built together with her deceased husband, a stonemason. The property was situated in Helvetia Avenue, off Geneva Street (successfully so nominated and named at the time by the initiative of Anna-Marie to the Council). Her property consisted of a three-building sized block with a house on it. It was part of the earlier subdivision, and she acquired it by conditional purchase from the State Government. Anne Marie was a local legend, known particularly as an animal lover who had a number of hens, numerous cats and four dogs. During her time of the accident, she was visited and assisted by Committee Members of the Society. She had no

relatives in Australia and was thinking of leaving her home to the Church when she died. However, she had second thoughts, and appointed the President of the Swiss Community Care Society as executor of her will, stipulating that the House be left for needy Swiss or the benefit the Society. It was in memory of her beloved Switzerland and should assist future generations. She stipulated in detail, that the Society should subdivide the property, pay the debt still owing to the Government, invest the balance of the funds and the house for the benefit of the Society and its aims in perpetuity. After Anne-Marie passed away in 1989, the Committee proceeded according to her wishes, and the house continues being commercially let and maintained by the Society.

This was a time when a member of the Society's Committee suggested to establish a retirement facility for ageing Swiss and Swiss descendants. His family even considered offering his home and spacious land for the purpose. A study was undertaken, but the idea was finally abandoned for reasons of complications as a feasible project and in view of legal constraints. Finally, the comparatively small size of the community was a deciding factor.

In the nineteen-eighties, the Committee considered a name change, as an extension of its aims from a solely benevolent character as a small society to embrace the Swiss cultural aspects of the whole community in the Sydney area. A search resulted in a descriptive name which became the birth of what is today the Swiss Community Care Society. Looking after the needy and elderly members of the Community also resulted in a consideration of the charitable status as pointed out by the Society's long time auditors.

Activities expanded to provide more contacts with the now longer-living seniors. They included bus trips to the Blue Mountains, the Central Coast and other activities. At Christmas time, volunteers distribute parcels of Swiss delicacies with a personal letter from the President to seniors of advanced age. The Society also participates in the Annual Swiss National Day Community celebration organised by the Yodelers, promoting its activities by exhibiting with a special promotional tent, manned by Members of the Committee.

Organising twice yearly outings to a midday concert with lunch for seniors at the Opera House is also a regular event offered and organised by a member of the Committee.

Another group is interested in furthering the study of historic and traditional Swiss writers and poets, such as Jeremias Gotthelf and Gottfried Keller. Two reading groups meet each month and engage in the readings

and animated discussions in the Concordia Club and at a private home.

The Society started a monthly get-together in the Concordia Club Tempe a few years ago with lunch and a chit-chat. This is open to all members and guests.

Considering the many individual Swiss Groups in the Community, the Society forms a cohesive link, and keeps in touch by providing copies of the quarterly Swiss Community News to all its members. Special celebration lunches for Seniors and members are organised for Swiss National Day and pre-Christmas, with active participation and performances by the Swiss Yodelers and the Folk Dance Group.

Needless to say that the Society is always vigilant to keep in touch and assist any possible needy cases in the Community, be it as a result of health or other circumstances.

The Society was also active on the National scene. The earliest Swiss organisation in Australia was the Swiss Society of Victoria, established in 1884, which was granted charitable status at the time. When approached for a closer cooperation in the interest of the community, they did not welcome the idea positively and it was then abandoned.

However, an affiliate was created in Queensland where the Society was instrumental to opening a fully independent Swiss Community Care Society Branch. The President and Vice-President assisted its formation and were personally present at its inauguration at the Solothurn Resort in Maleny Queensland. This took place just after the World Fair of 1988 in Brisbane.

A group of members, led by an employee of the Consulate General of Switzerland in Sydney, established a group of Swiss Seniors of the Central Coast who meet quarterly at the Gosford RSL for a get-together and a chat. At Christmas, they organise a luncheon cruise, recently at Brisbane Waters to which all Sydney members and Senior Swiss in general are invited. It is always a great and enjoyable experience. (See invitation in this issue.)

The Swiss Community Care Society continues as a viable organisation which attracts mainly Swiss and Swiss-Australian seniors to its ranks. It continues as a valuable link to the Australian multicultural scene. May it continue to flourish for many years to come!

Peter Meury, Past President



Members' Corner

**Welcome to our
new members**

Claudia Meo Sprent

Ariane Amman & Matje Buechler

Gisela Beckenham

**We look forward to seeing you
at many Swiss Club events.**



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Congratulations to **Maria Jones** from Kogarah Bay on your 90th birthday!

Congratulations to **Margaritha Bakas** from Sans Souci and **Dennis Furini** from Carlingford on your 80th birthdays!

We wish you a wonderful day and the very best for the coming year.

The Swiss Yodlers of Sydney



Revisited: our Swiss Yodlers Picnics in Castle Hill Showground 2017: the Yodlers with "reinforcement" from a local "Thoerishauser" Philippe Wittwer!

How do we, The Swiss Yodlers of Sydney, sustain our enthusiasm, even hunger, to hone our craft of singing Swiss "Jodel-Lieder" despite being denied the opportunity to perform as a group for close to ten months? We have not been doing much at all but yes! we love what we do and miss the camaraderie and the many friendships that we have forged over time. We may be able to compensate by listening to Swiss Folklore using the means available to us, e.g. the internet/ YouTube, etc. Singing and listening to Swiss songs is in our heart, and this cannot easily be erased. Our desire "to take us back to our roots" is our expression of what and who we are. Also what has not lost meaning and value are the many memories of wonderful past events and undertakings by the Club. They are alive and all due to singing, reflecting our individual personalities, not suspended during a crisis. This then is our renewed invitation to you to consider joining us as a future member. You may find some unexpected comfort and enjoyment making new friends with a common purpose.

We also urge anyone interested to "have a go" with a real Swiss Alphorn or a Swiss Handorgel, which we make available on loan free of charge.

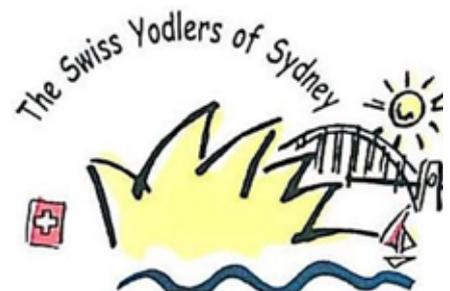
We currently "wait and see" whether we can participate at the Swiss Community Care Society's Christmas Party (the traditional "Swiss Seniors" end of year get-together); and if at all possible, our traditional Harbour Cruise may take place at the end of February 2021... again, we must "wait and see" what's next!

Please contact any of the following members for information:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Alois Kretz (President) | 9419 7277 |
| Sepp Engesser (Choir Master) | 9659 6232 |
| Karin Attewell (Treasurer) | 8964 4434 |



2019: Wilhelm Tell and son... our "Oberleutnant i.R." Oscar Oberholzer takes aim at the apple... hit or miss?



Report on the Council of the Swiss Abroad Meeting – July 2020

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Congress of the Swiss Abroad and the meeting of the Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA) that were to be held in Lugano this August had to be postponed to next year. As a consequence – and as a first of its kind – the CSA meeting was conducted virtually, utilising the online conference system ‘Demio’. It took place on 10 July 2020 and a total of 86 delegates participated.

The following is a summary of the main agenda items:

1. Treasurer

Following the resignation of Peter Wüthrich as treasurer of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) for the past four years, Lucas Metzger was introduced and duly elected as treasurer and member of the OSA executive. Peter received the gratitude of the delegates and executive for his outstanding service.

2. Direct election of the CSA delegates

Elections are due next year, and time is running out to have an electronic voting system in place that would allow for the direct election of the CSA. The executive informed the delegates that a number of electronic voting systems were evaluated, and the decision was made that ‘SimpleVote’ would, from a technical and economical perspective, provide the best solution. However, the questions of financing and gaining access to the e-mail database of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), which is fundamental for any direct election system, are still unresolved. Given this, the delegates are informed that there will be no uniform electoral system for 2021. The Swiss clubs or umbrella organisations are free to choose how they will elect their delegates. This is a huge set-back, considering the successful e-voting pilot-project in which the delegates in Australia and Mexico were elected in 2017.

Your delegate expressed his disappointment that so much time had gone past, yet the most fundamental questions that must be negotiated with the FDFA are still open. Your delegate emphasised that clarity is needed at year’s end at the latest whether or not the support of the FDFA will be forthcoming, otherwise there will be no direct election of any kind next year. Furthermore, we must be able to publicise and explain the election method in the first edition (January) of the ‘Swiss Review’ next year.

3. The CSA says “No” to the limitation initiative (For Moderate Immigration)

On 27 September, Swiss voters will decide on questions that also affect the Swiss Abroad. Those living in the EU will be particularly impacted by the so-called

‘limitation initiative’ that was launched by the SVP (Swiss People’s Party). If adopted, the bilateral agreement with the EU on the free movement of persons would be terminated or renegotiated. This would have far-reaching consequences for the whole of Switzerland and in particular for the 460,000 Swiss citizens living in a country of the European Union. The delegates spoke out with a clear majority against this SVP initiative.

4. Federal law on Electronic Identification Services

The Federal Council and Parliament have created a new law that will make online identification easier and safer for everyone. A referendum against this law has been launched based on the main argument that due to security concerns such an ID must be issued by the state and not by private companies. While the date of the vote is not yet determined, the Federal Council and Parliament recommend voting in favour of the new law. The majority of the CSA also supports this law as it offers clear benefits for Swiss Abroad, particularly in the field of online banking.

5. Popular initiative ‘For responsible companies – to protect people and the environment’ (Corporate Responsibility Initiative)

Although this initiative has no direct relevance for Swiss Abroad, Swiss businesses that are operating internationally nevertheless have an impact on the image Switzerland has abroad. The OSA is well aware of the importance of Switzerland’s high standard internationally and its consequences for Swiss citizens that live abroad. Therefore, the executive felt that a discussion about the pros and cons of this initiative was worthwhile. The CSA decided not to issue an official recommendation.

6. Next meetings of the CSA

- Friday afternoon and Saturday, 19 & 20 March 2021, in Brunnen (30th anniversary of the foundation of the ‘Place of the Swiss Abroad’ in Brunnen)
- Friday, 20 August 2021, in Lugano (during the Congress of the Swiss Abroad)

Roland Isler
CSA Delegate, Melbourne
15.08.2020



No need for hiking boots to discover The Matterhorn

From the Desk of Anne Held



The Matterhorn in Turramurra

Over the years, local Swiss compatriots missing Rösti, Bratwurst and Gschnezteltes, had the opportunity to go to The Chalet, Maison Suisse, Café Zuerich, The Eiger or Ox On the Rocks. All gone by now! But good news everybody! You can now enjoy The Matterhorn Swiss Restaurant in Turramurra.

This new restaurant opened on 30th June 2020, fulfilling the biggest dream of owner/chef Roland Schai and his wife Liarne. Roland was born in St Gallen in a family very much interested in cooking (his brother is also a chef). Due to his father's work in the transport industry, he spent a large part of his youth in exotic countries like Ghana and Venezuela. After his apprenticeship back in St Gallen and a degree from the hotel management school Montana in Lucerne, Roland decided to go to London, and get experience in as many restaurants as possible, among them the popular (but now demolished) Swiss Centre. During his time in the English city, he met many celebrities and artists, actors like Richard Gere and Charles Bronson and musicians like Duran Duran. Of course, in London, he also got together with the legendary Anton Mosimann OBE, world-renown Swiss restaurateur and chef.

In 1990, Roland immigrated to Australia. With his qualifications, it was no problem to get a visa. His first job was at the Löwenbräu in the Rocks, but then he moved on, preferring to run his own business.

For many years, Roland was in charge of a cafeteria air side on the tarmac at Sydney airport. A place not accessible to the public, but for airport officials and personnel like police, ambulance, maintenance or security. The cafeteria was very busy and open all day till 1.30hrs. There was also another business venture, a café on the Lower North Shore. Then came the bushfires of hot summer 2019/20, and then the coronavirus, and subsequently the closure of the existing businesses. Suddenly, an empty café up for lease on the Pacific Highway in Turramurra (with fully equipped facilities) presented the right opportunity to change directions and

finally offer traditional Swiss cuisine, as had always been Roland's intention.

Five evenings per week, we now find Roland in his open kitchen, calm and in control, preparing beautifully presented Swiss dishes, traditional or creatively adapted to the season and local produce, to a clientele from the neighbourhood, from the city and other suburbs, even from Wollongong and the Central Coast.

The menu changes every three months, but some classics can usually be enjoyed: a locally sourced veal and pork Olma Bratwurst (of course, Roland is from St Gallen, home of that special sausage), a tasty raclette, Bündner Teller (air dried beef and Landjäger platter) or a very cute individual serve of cheese fondue served in a sourdough bread roll. For spring, there are some new combinations. We can try out entrées like guinea fowl terrine, or roasted baby pumpkin with parmesan; for main course, rabbit stew with creamy polenta or lamb back strap with ratatouille; for dessert, how about a platter of different cheeses with fig paste, or even a decadent Kirschtorte? The Matterhorn is licensed and BYO and a wide range of Swiss spirits is available to properly finish a meal.

Roland's wife and co-owner, Sydneysider Liarne, is the energetic lady working on the floor. Liarne also has a culinary background, but they did not meet in a kitchen. No, it was actually online, and the wedding was held in 2019, in an Italian restaurant. There was no Swiss restaurant in Sydney in 2019... The team is assisted by a smiling Swiss gal with a familiar face, Ruth, an active member of the Yodlers.

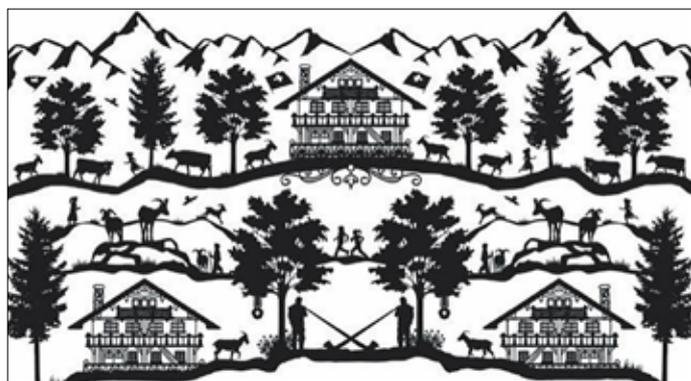


Liarne, Roland, Ruth and Lilly*

An activity that goes well with Swiss food is the companionship and card game of jass. Monday night is Jass Night, everybody is welcome, old hands, beginners and those who are keen to learn how to play. There is a set dinner menu available and bookings are required.

You prefer music to cards? Then go to the Matterhorn on a Friday night. Usually, jolly Phillippe with his accordion entertains the guests. Maybe you saw the funny Sunrise show on Channel 7, where Phillippe was trying to teach Weatherman Sam Mac how to yodel, all set in a park with the Schais providing a perfect Swiss touch, Liarne in a beautiful Bernese costume and Roland in his chef's attire.

Liarne and Roland have big plans for the future. Cercle Romand President Anne of Anne Resplendino Interiors has been busy renovating the restaurant, giving it a stylish new look. There will be a big round 'Stammtisch' in front of the striking red wall, chandeliers and a stunning new mural to embellish another part of the interior. Anne tells us: "The design inspiration of this mural comes from the Swiss folk art of découpage (Scherenschnitt), representing the life and its rituals up in the Swiss alps. The design was done by our in-house graphic team."



The new mural

Another artistic Swiss connection with the Matterhorn are the splendid works of our compatriot photographic artist Edmond Thommen displayed on the white walls.

There is more! Deliveries of popular Swiss products, wine, beer and spirits are on the way to Sydney, for retail. Knowing how many local compatriots cannot live without Aromat, I couldn't resist to ask Roland if he uses this iconic Swiss powdered seasoning. He laughed 'Only at home' he says, with a twinkle in his eyes.

So now, we have a little piece of Switzerland in Sydney. Current opening times and special events can be found on www.thematterhorn.com.au.

heldanne@yahoo.com. Anne Held was the first General Manager of SwissCham from 1990 to 2002.

* photo by Edmond Thommen



The kitchen*



Prawn cocktail*



Züri Gschnetzeltes und Rösti*



Chocolate chestnut truffle cake*

We are always looking for members and other Swiss people and businesses in the community to contribute to our Swiss Community News (SCN) magazine and monthly eNewsflashes by writing to us with an interesting or funny anecdote. This can be about your work, family and friends or the community, or you may have a captivating bio/autobiography you would like to share with our members and affiliates.

We are also always open to comments and ideas that you may have to better our Swiss community here in NSW.

Please keep contributions within 600 words or less. You can also include a max of two images (300dpi min & artwork supplied with crop marks & 3mm of internal and external bleed). All contributions can be sent to our Editor by email at swisscommunitynews@gmail.com.

Thank you kindly for your contributions.

Swiss Alliance Australia Inc.

We four Australian delegates to the CSA have undertaken to incorporate an umbrella organisation, Swiss Alliance Australia Inc., which eventually should comprise all Swiss associations around Australia, in order to be more organised, unified and ready for action to defend and work for the interests of all Swiss in Australia. In September 2020 we invited all Swiss clubs and associations to join as members. A new era to start with a strong voice in Berne! Similar umbrella organisations exist in Germany, France, Italy, USA, Canada, UK and even in New Zealand!

Beat Knoblauch, CSA Delegate,
Sydney October 10 2020



Beat Knoblauch - NSW



Carmen Trochsler - SA



Roland Isler - VIC



Katja Wallimann Gates -
QLD

SWISS ALLIANCE AUSTRALIA INC.

KEY POINTS



- Umbrella Organisation
- Non for profit
- Promotion of common interests whilst fully recognising individuality
- No financial liability for members other than joining and membership fee

UMBRELLA MEMBERS

- Ordinary Members with voting rights: Any Australian Swiss Club, whether incorporated or not
- Associate Members: Groups from Pacific Region
- Online Group Members



COSTS



- Once off joining Fee: \$50 for clubs and \$20 for online groups
- Ongoing annual fee:
 - for a club \$2 per club member
 - for an associate member: \$50
 - for an online group \$20

BENEFITS

- One strong voice in Berne, one contact for Berne
- Support through shared content that is relevant for all (magazine articles, new legislation etc.)
- Exchange on events and member attraction and retention
- Group insurance benefits, group discounts on services e.g. Tagesanzeiger Abo
- Continuity of Australia-wide activities
- Connection and strengthening of Swiss Community



AIMS & ROLE



- Promote and encourage exchange
- Maintain and foster close relationships with official channels in Switzerland
- Organise President's meeting
- Inform about events, news, legislation of interest
- Guide Members on organisational and administrative matters
- Carry through democratic elections for the delegates of the Council of the Swiss abroad

BECOME A FOUNDATION MEMBER AND BE PART OF IT!

YOUR AUSTRALIAN DELEGATES
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE SWISS ABROAD

Beat Knoblauch, Carmen Trochsler, Katja Wallimann Gates, Roland Isler
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Culi-Temp Corner

Restaurants & Eateries Beyond COVID-19

Many food service businesses have been casualties of Government and Health Department regulations surrounding COVID-19. Those who remain have been financially devastated during the lockdown laws and regulations. One can hope that these businesses will be able to bounce back from this pandemic and return to normal trade.

However, amidst these unprecedented times, some businesses, such as pizza shops and restaurants with high volumes of takeaway/delivery trade, have done surprisingly well. Pizza has always been a popular takeaway food item and with the rapid emergence of restaurants and cafes offering food and beverage delivery, it is no surprise that we have seen an increase in delivery during this pandemic. Businesses which were previously not offering takeaway and delivery are now recognising this trend and jumping on the delivery bandwagon. In doing so, these businesses are not only able to stay afloat and keep employees and trade going, but they also open up to the continually growing food delivery market.

The doors of hospitality and retail businesses are beginning to reopen to the public with restrictions on patrons and service. These businesses will face another uphill battle: regaining lost business (lost “regulars”).

One way of getting around this potential issue is offering loyalty programs or discounted meals on selected days of the week. This is obviously not a long-term solution, but may be a solution in attracting patrons. Some difficult sacrifices have to be made in a highly competitive market, particularly in a COVID-19 environment in which several people are less willing to eat and shop out. Perhaps chefs and restaurateurs will become innovated to work

on new menus and floor plans to create a more interesting dining experience. This is not to say that restaurants and chefs should lose their identity or signature dishes in the process, but it may be a good reason to hit the refresh button.

We all expect a certain level of friendliness and respect when we walk into any establishment. A smile can go a long way to improve first impressions and welcome guests: and a first impression always lasts. Naturally, the same sentiments go to the food and atmosphere of the venue itself. Indeed, if one good thing has come about from this pandemic with regard to establishments, it is that all dining rooms, surfaces, kitchens, food storage areas and other facilities are thoroughly and routinely cleaned and organised. This makes for a much more comfortable and enjoyable dining experience. Let's hope that these processes are adopted by all establishments moving forward.



During this pandemic, I have been proud and interested in the wonderful home-cooked creations I have seen on social media from friends and relatives. The home isolation that came with COVID-19 probably opened you up to the idea of being creative in the kitchen. We can thank sources like YouTube for an endless supply of videos on cooking and recipes, which has given some people the courage to try cooking at home – see it's not that difficult! However, what is difficult in our industry is consistency – and if your consistency is good – that goes a long way in making a successful business.

Happy dining out and don't forget the creativity in the home kitchen.

Your Food Guru, Daniel Frutiger



Glencore, sponsor of the Swiss Business Award, leader in mine rehabilitation

From the Desk of Anne Held

In the last Swiss Community News # July 2020/240, we were introduced to the three winners of the Swiss Business Award 2019. This exciting event has been generously sponsored by mining company Glencore Australia (headquartered in Baar, canton of Zug, Switzerland). and the company has been actively involved in the program from the start in 2012.



But today, let's have a look at one of the interesting activities of Glencore's Australian business. Westside, one of Glencore's open cut coal sites near Newcastle, produced coal for domestic power generators from 1992. In 2012, the mine was closed. The company had kept a strong focus on progressive rehabilitation during the mine's operations and after closure, the site was returned to beautiful bushland consisting of native vegetation communities characteristic of the local environment and landform type. Ongoing monitoring has shown that natural ecosystem functions were returning, with recent surveys indicating 69 native fauna species in the rehabilitation, including 11 threatened species.

Earlier this year, the NSW Government certified 38 hectares of this rehabilitation at Westside (a first for the State's coal industry under contemporary mine rehabilitation criteria), an area equivalent to more than 60 football fields. Besides other sites in Queensland, another Glencore mine in NSW, Ulan Coal, also received Government certification for 50 hectares of rehabilitation at that site. Overall, in 2019, Glencore invested some \$44 million for the rehabilitation of around 1,343 hectares, planted 70,000 seedlings and tube stock, and spread out 29 tonnes of seed.

A representative of Glencore is on the committee deciding on the winners of the Swiss Business Award. The other committee members are the Swiss Ambassador to Australia, the Consul General of Switzerland, the President of SwissCham and the President of SAAN (Swiss Australian Academic Network).

The Swiss Business Awards has been an annual program to recognise excellence of Swiss businesses, organisations and individuals located in Australia and with a strong and close link to Switzerland. Focus areas for all categories include innovation, technology, design, quality, reliability, sustainability, originality, contribution to society and social responsibility, corporate or otherwise. A winner is selected by majority committee vote in the categories Established Business, Science/Research/Education and Newcomer/Rising Star. Some years, a special Life Achievement Award is presented. Companies, associations or individuals can be nominated.

For any enquiries, please contact Martin Scarpino, CEO of SwissCham, on martin@swisscham.com.au. The Awards Night is planned for 24th February 2021 (to be confirmed).



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Reminiscing – Paralympic Games in Sydney from 18 to 29 October 2000

It is 20 years since nearly 4,000 athletes from 121 countries competed for twelve event-filled days at the Sydney Paralympic Games. The Swiss team of 54 competitors won 20 medals (8 gold, 4 silver and 8 bronze). Apart from the Chef de Mission, Christian Egli, the athletes were supported by five Sydney volunteers, Beat Knoblauch, Brigitte Ehrat, Helena Hinden, Peter Isaac and Margrit Bachmann. Two Australian drivers were also allocated to the team.



The volunteers at the Closing Ceremony from left to right: Brigitte, Helena, Peter, Margrit and Beat

Work began long before the opening ceremony on October 18. Training courses started in June. A short time before the games began, one of the volunteers, Beat Knoblauch, was promoted to 'Attaché to the Swiss Paralympic Team' when the Swiss delegate was unable to travel for some reason. This entailed Beat wearing the uniform of the Swiss Team and living at the Paralympic Village for the duration of the games. It was a huge job of countless tasks, big and small. These ranged from being in charge of the overall administration for the team to finding the necessary tools to open up a huge container which had been shipped from Switzerland with all the equipment.

The volunteers' office was situated in a modified shipping container near the homes of the Swiss team in the Paralympic Village. Working hours were from 7.30 am until late in the evening. With the exception of Beat Knoblauch, the rest of us commuted from home to the village daily, making for very long days. However, the experience of being part of this unique event, more than made up for all the hard work.

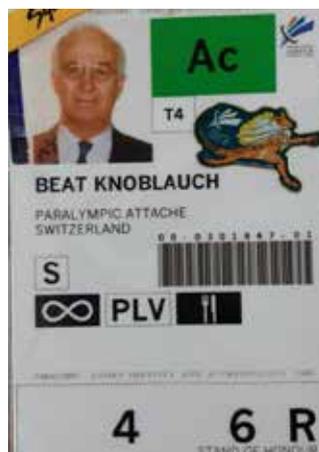
Our tasks were countless, and the diversity of those activities endless. The team was welcomed at the airport and then bussed to the Paralympic village. This was quite involved because there were some six different arrival times for groups of athletes, and each had to be

welcomed and taken through the arrival process. We organised transport within the Paralympic precinct for the athletes and their equipment – racing wheelchairs and racing bicycles had to be at the right place at the right time. Considerable time was spent on correspondence, from objecting to classifications to arranging receptions for benefactors and the Swiss community in Sydney. Visits to the city had to be coordinated, repair shops had to be found, and sight-seeing was organised for those athletes who had completed their competition programme. A highlight was a convoy of four-wheel drive vehicles, generously volunteered by a business associate of Beat Knoblauch's, Philip Maede, Partner of HLB Mann Judd. At least ten vehicles turned up on the appointed morning and every athlete not competing on the day had the opportunity of a daytrip to the Blue Mountains, including a barbecue lunch.

It was very moving how the athletes included us into the Paralympic family. We learnt so much about how simple tasks become a major undertaking for them, how tired they get, and how kind and understanding they are to each other.

We were very lucky to become acquainted with athletes who are celebrities in Switzerland and beyond, for example Heinz Frei, Franz Nietlispach and Ursina Greuter, champions in wheelchair racing for many years, Lukas Christen and Urs Kolly, famous in athletics with their technically advanced running prostheses and Beat Schwarzenbach, a champion in cycling. We saw them nearly every day, even had a quick lunch break with them or helped them with various tasks in their accommodation.

There was interaction with athletes from other countries as well and our Swiss athletes donated reserve material (wheelchairs, bicycles etc.) to teams from countries not so well off and not able to afford the very latest in technology.



By the end of the twelve days we were weary but entirely contented. We had been able to contribute in a small way to making this huge event the great success it turned out to be. For us volunteers it was a once in a lifetime experience and we fondly recall our involvement.

Margrit Bachmann

The Luginbühl's contribution to the Sydney 2000 Olympics and Paralympics

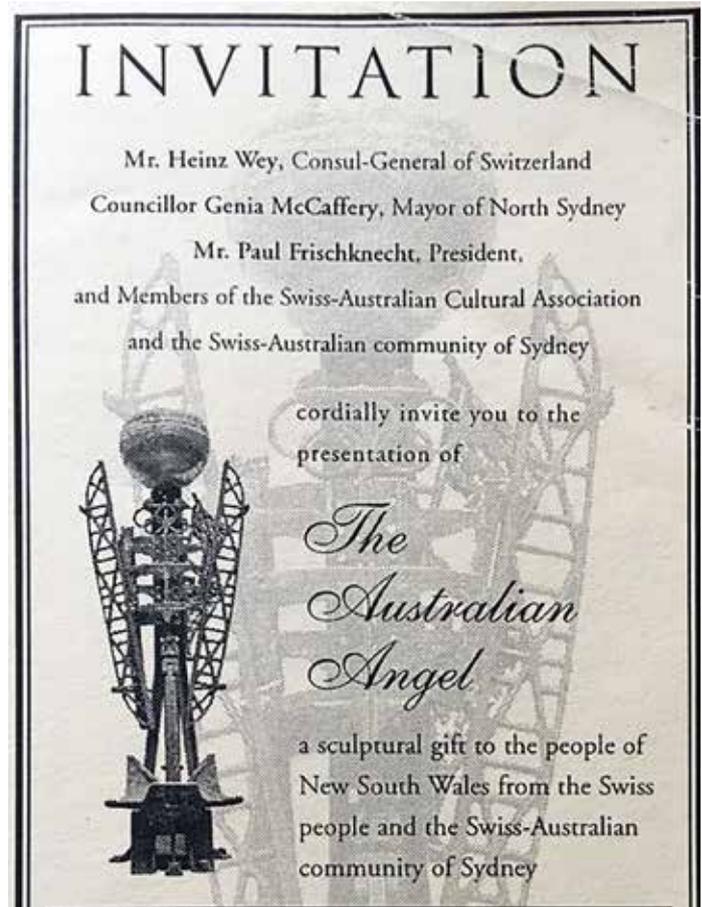
It all started with a dream of the late Paul Frischknecht in 1997. In this dream he saw himself addressing a large crowd in the Botanical Garden in Sydney where he introduced a Luginbühl Exhibition during the Olympic Games (Luginbühl in Australia, 2000).

As a young architect in Berne, Paul had developed a great appreciation of the work of Bernhard Luginbühl (1929-2011). This sculptor was renowned for his gigantic works made of materials he picked up on industrial recycling sites. They remind us of peak industrialisation in Switzerland, dominated by the construction of railways and bridges. Unsure if the dream represented decay and changes in his inner or outer world, Paul continued to discuss his dream of a Luginbühl Exhibition in Sydney. He thought it should form part of the Olympiad's cultural program.

After much deliberation and networking, and, after finding a suitable space to hold such an exhibition, the late Paul submitted a proposal to Pro Helvetia (the Arts Council of Switzerland) and the Luginbühl Family. He also involved the then Swiss Consul General, Mr Heinz Wey, who linked him up with the Swiss Government. Ultimately Paul secured the exhibition space and the Swiss Government agreed to pay for a Luginbühl sculpture to remain in Sydney after the games.



The late Paul Frischknecht, at the presentation of the "Australian Angel", December 2000, interviewed by Ursula Schappi, SBS Radio



It is rare that dreams come true, but together with the support of the local community representatives, securing the finances, and, last but not least, obtaining the agreement of the Luginbühl Family to come to Sydney to install the Exhibition, it opened in time, with works of Bernhard, Ursi Luginbühl and their sons Brutus, Basil and Jwan.

A small bar formed part of the Luginbühl Exhibition. Needless to say, the bar was a great attraction! Every night people gathered around a long table, outside the Exhibition Hall in the Rocks area. Willi Kunz, playing the accordion, attracted both "locals" and "visitors" for friendly chats and relaxation

The Luginbühl Exhibition was a massive undertaking. Many volunteers fronted up each day to mind the exhibition and greet visitors from around Australia and overseas.

In December 2000, shortly after the Paralympics, the "Australian Angel" found its permanent place at Bradfield Park, near the Harbour Bridge, in Kirribilli. The sculpture was especially created for the city of Sydney by the late Bernhard Luginbühl. It still stands there and welcomes the boats coming into the inner harbour.

Ursula Schappi

Wrapping up Sydney 2000 Olympics/Paralympics

From the Desk of Anne Held

Over the last few weeks, many memories came back. Yes, is it true? 20 years already since that exciting time in Sydney, Summer Olympics and Paralympics, how time flies!

By now, you may have watched the video from the receptions for the Olympic and Paralympic teams from Switzerland. It is available on YouTube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mBrCod9neJQ&t=581s&ab_channel=SwissClubofNSW.



And you may have read again the articles published in the Swiss Community News October 2000 and January 2001, with lots of photos and text. In 2000, it was an exceptional time for all of us, as the various local Swiss associations and clubs sat together and formed the volunteer organisation SwissContact Olympics/Paralympics. Reachable via the new website of SwissCham (then SACCI), an electronic message board was available to both locals and visitors looking for local contacts in Sydney. It was actually the first time ever that a Swiss community in an Olympic city had been offering such a tool.

It took just an email to promptly organise Swiss support 'sur place'. Cow bells, patriotic T shirts and hats, Swiss flags in every shape and size, it all came out to cheer on our compatriot athletes at the triathlon, marathon and other events.

In Switzerland, the media loved to write about Australia in general and the Sydney Olympics. SwissContact was introduced in various Swiss newspapers, magazines and TV.

The weather was good, no traffic problems in the city and the buzz could just be felt everywhere (Aussie Aussie Aussie, oi oi oi!). We remember former Swiss Federal Councillor and Swiss President Adolf Ogi, triathlon gold medal winner Brigitte McMahon, or the famous late night bar House of Switzerland at the Quay Grand Hotel at Circular Quay where you could mingle with Swiss athletes and officials, VIP's, politicians and business people, local identities and lost international visitors. The fabulous exhibition by Swiss sculptor Bernhard Luginbühl, initiated by the late Paul Frischknecht. The wonderful volunteers dedicating their time and energy to help Swiss and other athletes.

Swiss Club webmaster Martin Frutiger was only a kid in 2000. But he certainly deserves a gold medal himself for editing and posting all sort of archived footage and other published material, so we can all enjoy memories and maybe also find some forgotten treasures or memorabilia from Sydney 2000 while decluttering the cupboards. Yes indeed, it was a wonderful time!

heldanne@yahoo.com Anne was President of SwissContact Olympics/Paralympics.



Due to Covid-19 restrictions, please contact Regula by the 3rd Wednesday to confirm your attendance.

Swiss Community Care Society



Why wait for the next big luncheon until you see your Swiss friends again?

Come to the Concordia Club in Tempe for the

“CASUAL FRIDAY LUNCH”

We meet around 12.30 pm every third Friday of the month and enjoy a tasty meal in the company of some compatriots. No need to book, just turn up at the table with the little Swiss flags.

You order and pay individually for your food and drinks.

(You may want to use your Opal card! The Club is across the road from Tempe Railway Station!)

Regula Scheidegger, President SCCS
For enquiries call 9743 5323 or 0432 031 085

Edmond Thommen – always creative

From the Desk of Anne Held

In the good old pre-COVID-19 times, local Swiss photographic artist Edmond Thommen invited us all to his fascinating exhibition of 'BLENDEDnudes #5'. You can read about the crowded opening night in May 2019 in the Swiss Community News #238 November 2019. He told us then that he had booked the same gallery again for November 2020. And yes, the show is on!

The recent lockdown has not been able to keep Edmond down. With his creative drive, he has been busy as always, and is now keen to show the public his latest works (but sorry, no opening night due to current restrictions). However, here are the details on his latest art adventure called 'Under her Skin' blended by Edmond Thommen.

The exhibition will be open from Wednesday 18th November to Tuesday 1st December 2020, at M2Gallery, 4/450 Elizabeth Street, Surry Hills.

Opening hours: Monday to Friday 11am – 7pm, Saturday and Sunday 9.30am – 7pm

COVID-19 requirements will be in place of course: hand sanitiser, sign-in of all visitors, and social distancing, or as current when the exhibition opens in mid-November.

For interested visitors, Edmond encourages small groups of up to max. 15 persons at one time in the gallery space, and they will be able to enjoy his personal introduction and explanation of each work.

Fellow photographer Stephen Pierce beautifully describes what we will be able to see at M2Gallery: "Blended Nudes takes Edmond's mastery of colour and form to create works that intertwine the charisma of the human form with the organic urban experience. Subtle and thoughtful composition has resulted in works that have a unique playful personality. The use of blurred lines, softened edges and abstract concepts leave the viewer free to explore, imagine and form their own interpretation of the tones, textures and experience.

Edmond perfected this unique method originally by combining composited black and white negatives; today his own unique process sees digital technology image and editing technology pushed to their artistic limits to produce gallery quality expressions of his vision. A metamorphosis of charismatic nudes and organic urban textures, 'Under her Skin' creates fascinating blends of body shapes with naturally organic and manmade elements.

Allow yourself to discover the deep, complex world that Edmond has created. Bring yourself, your point of view, your baggage, to the art and it will reward you far more than any cursory appraisal could. You will not regret it."

Art lovers and collectors from both Australia and overseas have acquired Thommen's images. Besides his frequent Sydney exhibitions, his work has also been shown in the Hunter Valley and can usually be admired at Gallery One88 in Katoomba, a funky café cum gallery, and at The Matterhorn Swiss Restaurant Turramurra. Visit him on www.thommenart.com.au.

heldanne@yahoo.com. Anne was the first General Manager of SwissCham



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her skin
blended by Edmond Thommen

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Tues 1 December 2020
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How Swiss women used to spend their hard-earned leisure time

Leisure time as we know it today was not always a given, particularly for Swiss women, up until the first half of the 20th century.

In 1877, the federal Factory Law introduced the 11-hour working day. Once the factory shift was over, men had free time, known as rest time. Working women, however, came home from the factory to take care of the household, the laundry, the children and the cooking. Women had to fight hard to secure a small window of leisure time.

The appeal of the department stores that opened in Switzerland at the end of the 19th century was that duty became pleasure: women could leave their neighbourhoods to go shopping, escaping social constraints for a brief moment.



The food hall at Globus in Zurich in about 1912. *Magazine zum Globus*

From hygiene to sport for pleasure

The first public baths, built at the beginning of the 19th century in response to growing awareness about hygiene, offered women their first free spaces. It was not until 1837 that a bathing ban for women was dropped in Zurich and a “ladies’ bath house” was built.



The Belvoir Women’s Baths in Zurich (undated). *Baugeschichtliches Archiv*

As people moved to the cities, industries that offered ways of spending newly available free time began to emerge – a development that gained pace after the 48-hour week was introduced in 1919. The circus, opera houses, theatres and, from the mid-1920s, the radio offered diversion and entertainment.

Cinemas, dancing and cafés

It was often artists, intellectuals and adventurous women who paved the way for more rights and freedom. They had studied in Paris, London or New York, and on their return to Switzerland, they wanted to contribute to the social debates and cultural life. They were keen to build their own social lives independently.



Young women dance the Charleston in about 1926. *Getty images*

In the 1920s, people wanted to liberate not just their creative spirits from constraints, but also their bodies. Sexual taboos and strict conventions disappeared. This was especially revolutionary for women: they no longer depended on a partner to take them out and include them in social gatherings. They took control of their own social lives.



Café Select next to the cinema. *Fotostiftung Schweiz / Anita Niesz*

Print media played a key role in leisure time. Illustrated magazines with sprawling photo spreads brought the big wide world into the home. In the first half of the 20th century, numerous women’s newspapers came into being, covering education, the household, care, crafts and industry. From 1940, entertainment and fashion magazines entered the market.



“Wahre Geschichten”, in about 1930. *Hans Staub / Fotostiftung Schweiz Winterthur*

**Swiss Seniors of the Central Coast and all
Members of the Swiss Community Care Society Sydney**

INVITATION

**2020 COVID-19 Christmas Cruise on Brisbane Waters
Including Xmas Buffet Lunch
Thursday, 26th November 2020,
departing at 12.40 pm from Woy Woy and 12.00 pm from Gosford
*Covid restriction 60 passengers (registration first come, first served)***

Please note this 3-hour cruise will depart punctually from Woy Woy Warf on the Lady Kendall II. Drinks are for sale on board. (No wheel-chair access in Woy Woy.)

How to get there:

By rail (lift available in Woy Woy) and a short five-minute walk to the wharf. Parking is available in the streets or the nearby parking station. Trains to take (check times and possible track work before starting your journey). Train timetable not yet available, and will be communicated to participants when available.

Cost: \$19 for Senior Members of the Swiss Community Care Society and Swiss Seniors over the age of 65 (gratefully subsidised by the SCCS). \$49 for other participants.

Bookings essential! At the latest Friday 19th November 2019, either by email to petermeury@bigpond.com or phone 02 4388 4809, (mobile 0412 520 006), indicating numbers attending, names and first names (for name tags), and details of payment. Preferred payment by cheque made out to SCCS, sent to Peter Meury, 139/220 Hansens Road, Tumbi Umbi NSW 2261. Or cash on the day of the cruise.

Do not forget your sunhat, sun cream and a portion of good humour for a great day's experience!

See you on 26th November in Christmas spirit!

For more details of the cruise see website www.starshipcruises.com.au, scroll down to "Christmas Cruises in July and December".

Peter Meury

Please detach and return to arrive no later than 22nd November 2020

I/We will board in Woy Woy or Gosford: (essential!)

Name/first name(s):

Email: Phone number:

Address:

I(we) wish to participate at the Christmas Cruise on the Lady Kendall II on 26th November 2020

Payment by cheque (or cash on the day) \$.....

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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 1/4/2020 – 31/3/2021

Main Applicant

Partner

I / We (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms)

(Please use block letters)

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(full residential address with postcode)

Phone private: _____

Mobile: _____

Email: _____

Phone business: _____

Date of birth: _____

Occupation: (please list both for partner m/ship)

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 (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 applicable)
 I/we **do not** give permission for my/our child to be part of group photos or video footage taken of their participation at club activities by the committee for use in newsletters, on the website or social media (please tick if applicable)

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.



*Jacaranda trees
in November*



Swiss Club of NSW Limited, PO Box 3292, Bangor NSW 2234
swissclubnsw.com

#SWISSINSYDNEY