



Swiss Community News

Swiss Club of New South Wales

March 2019 / #236

www.swissclubnsw.com



Swiss Skiing

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#SWISSCLUBNSW

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

2019 Calendar

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

March	Sun, 3rd	SCNSW Free BBQ for Swiss Club members at Bronte Park, from 11 am
	Fri, 8th	SCCS High Tea at Parliament House, Guest Speaker Dr Bettina Boss "Old photos shining a new light on our heritage", 11.45 am
	Fri, 22nd - Sun, 24th	Cercle Romand Weekend Camping in Kangaroo Valley
April	Fri, 5th	SCCS Concert (organ recital) at Sydney Opera House and lunch at Eastbank, Circular Quay
	Sun, 7th	SCNSW Wild mushroom foraging in the Blue Mountains, from 9 am
	Sat, 13th	Cercle Romand Cinema Pasta & Pizza, Leichhardt; details tba
May	Sun, 5th	Buure Zmorge at Louis' Fairway Bistro, Balgowlah Golf Club, 9.30 am
	Tue, 14th	SCCS Hawkesbury Valley Heritage Tour
	Sun, 19th	Cercle Romand Raclette at Bobbin Head
June	Sun, 16th	SCNSW AGM at Louis' Fairway Bistro, 10.30 am (Apero), 11.00 am-12.00 noon (Meeting) followed by lunch
July	Wed, 3rd	SCCS Live Concert in Chatswood, followed by luncheon
	Fri, 5th - Sun, 7th	Cercle Romand Christmas in July in Orange NSW
	Sun, 14th	SCNSW Bushwalk with Maronibrätle and Glühwein; more info tba
	Sun, 28th	Swiss Yodlers Swiss National Day at Castle Hill Showground

The Swiss Club Board meets every first Monday of the month at The Royal Leichhardt Hotel, from 6.30 pm followed by dinner. Swiss Jassers also meet every Monday at 7 pm at The Royal Leichhardt Hotel. Support your Club and advertise via our exciting online platforms: many opportunities via our website and direct email Newsflash to hundreds of contacts. Enquiries to info@swissclubnsw.com.

Join the SCNSW Board of Directors!

The Swiss Club of NSW is looking for a person to fill a vacant position on the Board of Directors.

Anyone with a keen interest in their Swiss community is welcome and no previous experience is required. Interested applicants can contact Daniel by email dan.mar04@bigpond.com for further information. We look forward to hearing from you!



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

Next deadline for issue #237 is 3rd June 2019 for the July 2019 issue.

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

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

President's Message

Dear Swiss Club Members and Friends,

The Swiss Club of NSW (SCNSW) had a busy and successful 2018, and the Board of Directors is looking forward to an equally successful 2019! We will be organising several popular Swiss events throughout the year for all members and compatriots to participate in. Many of these events are culturally significant traditions, and so we anticipate offering the Swiss community, generations young and old, a unique Swiss experience in NSW. As the SCNSW is a not-for-profit social club run by volunteers, your active participation in events is kindly appreciated – please support your club who supports your Swiss community.

The recent conference of the Swiss social clubs and organisations in NSW was held at the Swiss Consul General's, Mrs Bernadette Hunkeler-Brown, residence here in Sydney. The conference was well attended and organised. Several topics relevant to the Swiss in NSW and the future of Swiss groups in NSW were discussed. We are pleased to inform you that these topics were met with positive outcomes for the near future. On the agenda was the possibility of a Swiss Club 'Umbrella Organisation', which would be established to better disseminate and share information across all Swiss Clubs and groups in Australia. All the Swiss social groups in NSW are already well established and are successful in sharing information through various platforms, such as the Swiss Community News magazine, websites and social media pages. These tools are vital for smaller Swiss groups and organisations, which are perhaps more isolated or less funded, as they provide a source of local and relevant information for the Swiss in NSW. I am in favour of a possible 'Rural and Regional Umbrella Organisation' for this very reason. Furthermore, it is anticipated that in doing so, the strength, support and access to resources for smaller Swiss groups in particular will vastly improve. We would like to hear your thoughts on this topic, and if you have any suggestions on ways to ensure future generations will have the opportunity for Swissness down under, please contact us via info@swissclubnsw.com.

Our very popular Buure Zmorge event will now be hosted at a new venue as of this year, after having been held at the Austrian Club Sydney for the past of years. Unfortunately, the Austrian Club Sydney was not able to accommodate us on any given Sunday anymore. The SCNSW is disappointed in their decision, as we have an official affiliation with the Austrian Club Sydney in which the Swiss Flag is firmly presented on its walls to make it known that Swiss patrons were always welcome. Moreover, the Buure Zmorge event was a great opportunity for the Club's exposure and our members have supported the Austrian Club Sydney over the many years. The new venue for the upcoming Buure Zmorge will be at Louis' Fairway Bistro at Balgowlah Golf Course on Sunday, 5 May 2019. We would like to thank Louis for hosting us and look forward to another fantastic Buure Zmorge!

The last event of 2018 was held at The Royal Leichhardt Hotel where the SCNSW celebrated a Christmas get-together for our members. We had almost 40 participants who had a wonderful

time chatting over good food and drinks. We also had a few games of friendly Jass after dinner. Every member received a traditional Christmas Säckli filled with peanuts, chocolate and biscuits to take home as a parting gift for 2018. Each year, this event gains popularity and has proved to be a worthwhile event for those in the pre-Christmas spirit; and so it will be held again at the end of 2019. If you would like to play Jass on a regular basis, the Swiss Jassers of Sydney meet every Monday night from 7 pm at The Royal Leichhardt. Players of all ages and experience levels are more than welcome to attend and participate in a few games of friendly Jass!

I am also pleased to announce that we will be organising another wild mushroom foraging trip in the Blue Mountains! We will spend a day in the forest foraging for saffron milk caps and slippery jacks, and then enjoy a delicious forest lunch with the foraged mushrooms. Due to the recent warm and dry weather conditions this event has been scheduled for early April, rather than March. Please refer to our monthly eNewsflashes and social media platforms for further information. This event is very popular, and so please book early to ensure you do not miss out.

We always encourage our members to have their say on what type of Swiss events they would like to experience, and if they have any opinions for the SCNSW and related topics. We are more than happy to hear from you! Please send your enquiries to info@swissclubnsw.com.

Our Swiss Community News magazine has recently undergone a much needed modernised facelift. The new design will ensure engagement with particularly the younger generations of Swiss. This is important, as the magazine is one of our most relevant sources of information for the Swiss in NSW. I would like to thank our Editor, Barbara Koepfel, for her amazing dedication and effort in collating information, designing and publishing the magazine at such a high quality on a regular basis.

There is also a new section in this issue of the Swiss Community News: a series of old photographs will be exhibited, courtesy of Elisabeth Roth's collection. We are reaching out to the wider Swiss community for their help. Are you able to recognise some of the individuals in each of these photos? We are in the process of categorising and storing these historical artefacts and require your assistance for further information. More photos will also be exhibited in the following two issues for 2019. This will be a great opportunity for you to get involved in volunteer work for your Swiss community and be a part of Swiss history in NSW. The SCNSW eagerly anticipates hearing from you.

I wish you all a successful 2019 and look forward to seeing you at a few of our upcoming events.

Yours sincerely,

Daniel Frutiger,
President



Past Swiss Club Events

Buure Zmorge at the Austrian Club Sydney



On Sunday, 4 November 2018, we organised our Swiss Buure Zmorge (Swiss Farmers Breakfast) at the Austrian Club in Frenchs Forest. We had a total of 120 guests - thank you for your support!

We offered a selection of Swiss cheeses like Gruyère, Appenzeller and Tilsit, and dried meats including bresola, fleischkäse, and rohschinken. We also had chicken chipolatas, homemade quiche Lorraine and birchermuesli, along with natural yoghurt with berries, a fruit platter, honey and jam. Of course, who could forget the wide selection of crusty Swiss bread from the Organic Bread Bar!

To all wondering where you can purchase the Swiss cured meats and cheeses from the day along with many other Swiss homemade delicacies such as French salad dressing, chnöppli and Café de Paris butter, please visit our blog page.

Thank you all who attended; we hope you enjoyed the food and atmosphere and look forward to seeing you again. A special thank you goes to Sigi Achermann for once again filling the room with music and joy with his Schwyzerörgeli, and the CSA Oceania Delegate to NSW, Mr Beat Knoblauch and his wife Jill, who also kindly attended our event. We would also like to thank all the Board of Directors and their families who helped organise and run this event; it could not be achievable without your time and dedication.



Members Christmas Dinner

On Monday, 17 December 2018, Swiss Club members and friends came together at The Royal Leichhardt for the last Swiss event of the year to celebrate an early Christmas and wonderful end to the year. All members received a free Christmas säckli filled with Christmas cookies, chocolates and roasted peanuts organised by the Swiss Club.

We had a great turn out with 36 people, and everyone enjoyed the atmosphere and the good company. After a hearty meal and a few beverages, we all enjoyed a few games of friendly Jass.

We would like to thank our sponsors, Lindt & Sprüngli (Australia), The Swiss Bakerz, and Dalya Australia for their kind donations to the säckli! We would also like to thank The Royal for hosting us once again.



Past Swiss Club Events

Children's Samichlaus

Schöni Wiehnachte! On Sunday, 2 December 2018, Samichlaus and Schmutzli made a surprise visit to Swiss children and their families at the Pavillion Picnic Shelter, Bobbin Head in Ku-Ring-Gai Chase National Park.

Nestled along where Bobbin Head bushlands meets Cowan Creek sits Pavillion Picnic Shelter—the perfect location for our Aussie-meets-Swiss Children's Samichlaus event. The weather was hot and windy, but twelve families with eighteen children braved the conditions to meet Samichlaus.



The SCNSW provided every child a free wienerli and juice popper for lunch, while parents could purchase a bratwurst, cervalat or fleischkäse from the BBQ with salad and bread, and choose from a selection of beverages.

While the children waited for Samichlaus, they were entertained with arts and craft and used this time to make a small gift for Samichlaus and their parents. To the surprise and excitement of the children, Samichlaus and Schmutzli made a spectacular entrance to the Pavillion on a dirt motorbike and pulled up right next to the Christmas tree. Schmutzli was carrying his broom made of creepy branches and a large sack with bells full of presents for the eagerly-awaiting children. Samichlaus read each child a personal message of praise from his Golden Book and presented them with a traditional säckli filled with roasted peanuts, fresh apples, Samichlaus Lebkuchen, Zimtsterne and Mailänderli, Samichlaus Schoeggeli and Lindor Chocolate Balls.



We would like to thank our sponsors and those who kindly made donations for the säckli: The Swiss Bakerz for the Samichlaus Lebkuchen, Nicola Enz-Quealy for the Swiss säckli bags, Lindt & Sprüngli (Australia) for the Lindor Chocolate Balls, and Dalya Australia for the Christmas biscuits.

We would also like to thank all the families who braved the hot and windy conditions and attended the event. We hope you and your children had a wonderful and memorable experience meeting Samichlaus and Schmutzli, and that your children enjoyed their säckli. We also sincerely thank Pierre Pesenti for volunteering to be a joyful Samichlaus for the day. Lastly, we would like to thank the SCNSW committee members who helped leading up to the event and on the day—your time and effort makes events like these not only possible but also successful.



Visit our website, Facebook and Instagram for more photos.
You can also view video clips of past events on our YouTube channel.

Upcoming Swiss Club Events

Free Swiss BBQ at Bronte Park

Join us again for a casual BBQ in Bronte Park near the public BBQ area for some fun in the sun and surf. This event has been a great opportunity for Swiss families and singles living in Sydney to network. BYO beverages, but the SCNSW will organise a sausage sizzle, mixed salad and bread free of charge (for members only).

The best spot for free parking is in the back streets near the Waverley Cemetery. You can then walk down to the beach and north along the cliff walk to the beach or head to the hilltop Bronte Shops and find your way down the laneways to the beach (5-8 mins); just look for the SCNSW flag.

Do not forget to bring your swimmers and sunscreen if you decide to go for a swim! Check out our YouTube clip and Facebook album of this event from 2018.

When: Sunday, 3 March 2019 11:00 am to 3:00 pm

Where: Bronte Park, NSW 2024

Cost: Free for members only; \$15.00/person for non-members to cover food costs.

RSVP: Bookings are essential. Please contact Daniel Frutiger via dan.mar04@bigpond.com or call 0403 502 048



Wild Mushroom Foraging in the Blue Mountains



Go on a journey with us to the secluded Hampton and Jenolan State Forests where wild mushrooms, blackberries and apples grow in abundance. This event will be a fantastic opportunity to take the whole family for a day of nostalgic picking, just like you may have done back home in Switzerland.

We will meet at the wonderfully historic Victory Theatre Antique Centre & Cafe in Blackheath for breakfast and coffee at 8:30 am and leave at 9:15 am. All-day free parking is available along the Great Western Highway. We will then make our way over to the foraging sites, which are approximately one hour west from the Cafe. Carpooling will be a good option.

We will find two types of edible mushrooms: Saffron Milk Caps and Slippery jacks. If the conditions are in our favour, we may also be treated to wild blackberries and apples. After a few hours of foraging, we will have lunch on the border of the State Forest where Daniel, our President (and chef), will cook a delicious meal with the wild mushrooms. We will then head off to The Yellow Deli in Katoomba for an afternoon coffee and/or dessert.

What to bring: Swiss pocket-knife, cutlery and crockery, plenty of water and drinks (wine or beer if you wish), small snacks, and containers/bags for collected mushrooms, blackberries and apples (wicker or plastic baskets are the best). We will pick a lot, so do not bring anything too small. Please wear good closed toe shoes and warm clothing (preferably long pants), including rain gear (just in case).

When: Sunday, 7 April 2019 from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm or later.

Where: Meet at Victory Theatre Antique Centre & Cafe, 15-17 Govetts Leap Rd, Blackheath NSW 2785.

Cost: Free for members, \$10.00/adult and \$5.00/child (under 12) for non-members to cover the cost of lunch.

RSVP: Bookings are essential. Please contact Daniel Frutiger by phone 0403 502 048 or email dan.mar04@bigpond.com before Friday, 5 April 2019.

(Event is subject to change pending on weather conditions)



Upcoming Swiss Club Events

Buure Zmorge at Louis' Fairway Bistro, Balgowlah Golf Club

Enjoy a delicious and authentic Buure Zmorge (Swiss Farmers Breakfast) at Louis' Fairway Bistro in Balgowlah Golf Club. There will be a selection of traditional Swiss cheeses, rohschinken, double-smoked ham, aufschnitt, bresaola, quiche Lorraine, birchermuesli, yoghurt, fruit platter, honey, jam, and a variety of breads.

When: Sunday, 5 May 2019, 9:30 am to 12:00 noon.

Where: Louis' Fairway Bistro, 506 Sydney Rd, Balgowlah NSW 2093.

Cost: Non-member \$30, member \$25, child 4-12 years \$12. Either cash on the day (correct amount is appreciated) or direct deposit to:

Account Name: Swiss Club NSW

Account BSB: 112879

Account Number: 061587992

RSVP: Bookings are essential: limited numbers available, please book early. Please contact Daniel Frutiger on 0403 502 048 or email dan.mar04@bigpond.com before Saturday, 4th May to confirm your attendance and payment option.



Members' Corner

Welcome to our new members

Katja Humphreys

Angela Oswald

Regula Scheidegger

Cate Riley

Susanne and Tim Rogen-Schweizer with
Nicholas and Raphael

Connie Daniels-Marti and Peter Daniels

Manuela und Walter Steiner

Catherine Mary Anne Craven and
Alexander Aeberli with Augustus

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



One member is celebrating her 90th birthday!

Congratulations to **Mrs Claude Middleton**
from Roseville.

We wish you a wonderful birthday
and all the very best.

Archivist required

The various Swiss Clubs and Societies in NSW are all getting older. Many of their members are in the senior age group. Some associations have been around for many decades and therefore their history is becoming longer.

At the meeting of the Presidents of Swiss Clubs in September 2018, it was emphasised by one of our representatives of OSA (Organisation of the Swiss Abroad) how important our history and therefore its archiving is. The new way to archive documents is, like many other things in today's world, electronically. Eventually we will not store our documents in boxes in people's garages but simply in the "cloud". At this stage however, many of us have some boxes somewhere and their contents should be looked through and sorted. Not every paper is of importance.

The Swiss organisations in Sydney are looking for a person who is able to see what should be kept and what can be discarded. If we are left with just the important things it might be possible to digitise those at a later stage.

If you are familiar with archiving work we would be very happy to hear from you.

The number to call is 02 9743 5323 or 0432 031 085.

Swiss Community Care Society (SCCS)

I am now in my second year as president of SCCS and am enjoying more and more promoting what we do. If you are a regular at our activities you know how enjoyable they are. Maybe you could help spread the word! One does not have to be a member or a senior to join in.

Following are our events and their dates (where already known) of 2019. Perhaps you like to mark them in your diary now, in order to not make a doctor's or dentist's appointment on those days!

- 1. August Luncheon in Tempe on Saturday, 3rd August
- Xmas Luncheon in Tempe on Saturday, 7th December
- Two concerts (Opera House, resp. Concourse in Chatswood) and Lunch on April 5th and in October
- Two excursions to interesting places with lunch or high tea on March 8th and May 14th.

Please call Beat on 9969 7765 or myself on 9743 5323 if you would like to receive invitations to these events which need to be booked.

No booking is required if you like to come to our "Casual Friday Lunch" at the Concordia Club in Tempe. We meet there at about 12.30 pm on the third Friday of the month. Just look for the table with the little Swiss flags. You can order your meal and drinks individually and enjoy the company of some Swiss friends. We might even have enough people there who would like to play a Jass!

We are always happy to find new volunteers. Perhaps you know that we bring a little Christmas cheer to the homes of over 200 elderly Swiss in NSW. Those who live in or around Sydney are visited and those further away receive their present by mail. Please call one of the above numbers if you like to be a visitor.

The aim of SCCS is to keep in touch with Swiss people. Please tell us if you have a relative, friend or just an acquaintance who may be unknown to us.

Regula Scheidegger

website: swissccs.org.au

email: swissccs@gmail.com





Gottfried Keller

The Swiss Reading Group meets every third Friday of the month from 10 am to 1 pm at the Concordia Club, Tempe.

2018 has been a good and rewarding year for the group. In all we had 10 reading sessions (none in January or December). We are still reading the books of Swiss author Gottfried Keller and enjoy and learn from his deep knowledge and often humorous description of human nature and experience. This year we read *Der Grüne Heinrich* and have come to the fourth and last part of this great quasi self portrait of a young boy growing into maturity. Not only do we enjoy reading, but we take much inspiration from one another as we comment and discuss the topics and, with a break and a 'cuppa' at half-time, simply relish one another's company. At the moment we are tossing up whether we will also read Keller's *Martin Salander*, or if we envisage more modern authors like e.g. Friedrich Dürrenmatt and Max Frisch. The following are the dates on which we will meet in the New Year:

February 15th, March 19th, April 26th, May 17th, June 21st, July 19th, August 16th, September 20th, October 18th, November 15th.

We are usually between four and seven people, but there are lots more chairs in the newly refurbished function room; so if you are interested in joining, just come along!

Elizabeth Isele will also continue her reading group in the New Year at her unit in Lindfield on the first Wednesday of every month, except January, catering especially for people who live on the Northshore. At this stage the group is reading *Kurzgeschichten von Schweizerautoren*. For anyone interested, please ring Elizabeth on 9416 9666.

Senior members of the Concordia Club who usually come for lunch on the first Friday of the

month have voiced the wish to also have a reading group while they are there. This new venture has only just begun but looks quite promising.

We will start at 11 am and will complete the session by about 12 noon; initially we will not envisage ongoing books. The Club had asked me to prepare some inspirational texts, and to prepare for Christmas we read some poetry and short stories by Hermann Hesse. A lady who had just celebrated her birthday recited a lengthy and most beautiful Christmas poem by heart, and another lady promised to bring along her treasured Friedrich Schiller next time. Given that these two reading groups at the Concordia Club are on different days, they are not exclusive and you are welcome to enjoy either of them, or both.

The nice thing is that on the third Friday after reading, our Swiss group has lunch at the big round table in the little homely nook of the restaurant. We always feel welcome at the Club and anyone who would like to join us (yes, they make a nice Bratwurst!)—and some old and new friends and compatriots did so last year—are very welcome - the more the merrier!

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Books on the Move...

A pile of old Swiss books has been stored under the roof of the Roth Family home for many years. They were brought there in the late 1960s after the Swiss Club had sold the “Stanmore” property. They were to be stored there until the Club found a new permanent home ...

More recently Elisabeth Roth and Ursula Schappi started to sort out these books and list them on a spread sheet. We recorded around 140 titles, authors’ and publishers’ names and other details. Our criteria for inclusion were that they were written by Swiss authors and/or that they were published in Switzerland. There were books written in the late 19th century, mostly typed in gothic script and in small print, with the occasional illustration. We included books that were published up to and including the Second World War. To give you a feel of the range of Swiss books that were stored, some of the titles are listed below.

The idea was that we would offer these books as a package to any museum or university for research purposes – to illustrate the kind of books Swiss migrants would take with them as a vade mecum during the pre-Second World War period.

And we can report the first success. The Swiss National Museum (the Landesmuseum) selected about 40 of the 140 books, to be displayed as part of an exhibition in Central Switzerland. “Die Schweiz anderswo” is the title at the “Forum Schweizer Geschichte” in Schwyz. It reflects the history of Swiss migration around the globe. This project was developed in cooperation with the ASO/OSA, the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad. It tells the story of ASO/OSA and the role it played in safeguarding the rights and responsibilities of Swiss citizens living outside of Switzerland. Many contributions on display illustrate the strong links between the Swiss abroad and those living in Switzerland.

The exhibition of the Forum Schweizer Geschichte Schwyz will be opened on 13th April to 29th September 2019. This exhibition will then re-open in Zurich in early 2020.



Landesmuseum Schwyz

We thank our former Consul General, now retired, Markus Meli who connected us with the decision-makers at the Landesmuseum in Zurich. We also thank our current Consul General, Mrs Bernadette Hunkeler-Brown for facilitating the transport of the books to Switzerland.

And, should you visit Schwyz this year, here is the link to the Landesmuseum Schwyz: <https://www.nationalmuseum.ch/d/schwyz/Ausstellungen.php>.



A Japanese contribution to the exhibition. Image: Yokohoma. Gedenkfeier Schlacht bei Sempach, 1886_COL-23060_LM-105324.23 © Schweizerisches Nationalmuseum

Following is a list of a few books that were brought to Australia by Swiss migrants before the Second World War. It clearly illustrates the vast range of interest they represented.

Wie ich mein Kindlein pflege, Merkbüchlein für Mütter, 1922

Schweizerisches Zivil Gesetzbuch vom 10. Dezember, 1907

Liederbuch des Schweizerischen Wehrmannes, 1891;

Chansonnier du Pays Romand, 1922;

Schweizer Bürgerkunde, kleines Handbuch des für den Schweizer Bürger politisch Wissenswerten, 1910

Spielbuch für Knaben, 1896

Schweizer im Ausland, von ihrem Leben und Wirken in aller Welt, 1931

Leitfaden für Erfinder, 1920

Aus unserer Bibel, ein Lesebuch für Kirchen, Schule und Haus, 1935

Die heilige Flamme, eine Erzählung aus dem Bernerland, 1917 von Rudolf von Tavel

Das Hochmutnärchen, 13 stories of life during the Napoleonic wars, von Lienert Meinrad

Bündner Tier und Jagdgeschichten, 1946

La Ronde de Nuit, short stories of restarting life after the war, 1923

Schloss Wildenstein, Johanna Spyri, Eine Geschichte für Kinder, auch für solche die Kinder lieb haben, Band 15, 1906

Wenn die Stadt dunkel wird 1941, Novel set during WW2

Die Leute von Seldwyla, Erster Band (4. Band Gesammelte Werke), 1921 Gottfried Keller

By Ursula Schappi and Elisabeth Roth

News from the Cercle Romand

Dear Friends and Members,

We wish all our friends and members a happy new year 2019.

A merry group of members gathered at The Little Snails restaurant in Pyrmont to celebrate the end of the year and the last event for 2018. Very nice food and good humour were in good supply for this fun night.



The committee has planned some nice events for 2019 and as usual, the details for each event are published on the club website: cercleromand.com.au where locations, times and booking information can be found.

The first event for 2019 was our now traditional **'Pétanque & Brunch at the Park'**. It was held on Sunday, 3rd February at Ballast Point Park, Birchgrove. Winners will have their name engraved on the 'Paul Lambert' perpetual Trophy and receive a complementary invitation to our 'Raclette at the Park' event.



Our **camping week-end** is planned for 22nd to 24th March. This year we will be returning to the Glenmack Park, at Kangaroo Valley. It is a beautiful region located a couple of hours south of Sydney. There are plenty of things to do and to explore there.



Image: Shoalhaven Tourism

The next event will be a **'Cinema, Pasta & Pizza'** night in Leichhardt on Saturday, 13th April. Details will be available in March and published on the Club's website.

Our May event this year is **'Raclette at the Park'**, on Sunday, 19th May at Bobbin Head. May is the beginning of the cooler months in Sydney and the best time to enjoy a raclette, a glass of wine and good company in this beautiful park by the water.



The committee thanks all its members for supporting these events and looks forward to seeing you in the coming months.

Daniel Sottaz – Secretary
Cercle Romand Sydney

Le Cercle Romand...que du bon temps

cercleromand.com.au

Facebook : Cercle Romand Sydney

The Swiss Yodlers of Sydney



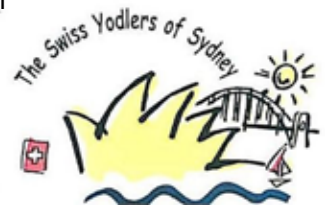
Our first function this year was the annual harbour cruise held on
Sunday, 24th February, 2019

The traditional **1st August celebrations** will be held on
Sunday, 28 July at Castle Hill Showground.
Details of this event will be provided at a later date.

On **Saturday, 3 August 2019** the yodelers will perform at the
Swiss Seniors Luncheon to be held at the Concordia Club in Tempe.

If you would like to join us, do come along.
We practise on Monday evenings in Chatswood.

Alois Kretz, President Swiss Yodlers of Sydney
E: kretz@bigpond.net.au T: 02 9419 7277



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

Vale Erna (Ernestine) Marie Schweiberer

7 December 1914 to 14 November 2018



Erna was born in Zürich in 1914; her mother was Elisabeth Schweiberer, her father declined to marry Elisabeth, as he did not want a girl. Erna spent her early childhood with her maternal grandparents, a fishing family on the Fraueninsel on Chiemsee, Southern Germany. After her mother married and had two sons, Erna had to come back to Zürich to mind the two boys and help mother in her laundry and ironing business. Her stepfather never adopted her, thus her surname remained Schweiberer. At the age of 14, Erna was sent to work at the Zwicky Nähfaden factory in Dübendorf, her income helping to support the family. At 21 Erna left home and worked in St Mortiz and also spent time to learn French in Buchillon. While there she undertook to meet her biological father. They met for lunch and Erna never forgot that she had to pay for her own meal. Her father had married and had two daughters. Erna also worked in Davos and Clavadel. There a friend helped her to obtain a traineeship as a psychiatric nurse. After obtaining her accreditation Erna worked at various psychiatric clinics, in Bern, Wil and Schaffhausen; she also worked as a palliative nurse. Back problems forced her to give up nursing.

At the age of 44 one of Erna's half-sisters who was married in England encouraged Erna to come to London where she took on work in various households. One of these was Roger de Westheimer's who became a very good friend. 26 years older, and having lived in Switzerland during WW1, he was like a father to Erna, the father she had never had. Together they went on holidays to Switzerland, France and Denmark. In 1969 Roger died and left her 6,000 English pounds. In 1971 Erna met an Australian couple from Collaroy, Sydney; they invited Erna to come to Australia and work for them. Erna arrived here at the age of 60. Some years later she found out about the Benevolent Society of NSW who offered units for seniors at Allambie Heights, and Erna purchased one. From then on, Erna felt really secure and at home and made many friends. With Swiss compatriots who lived at the Martin Luther Retirement village next door; Marlies Redshaw always kept an eye on Erna and became her best friend.

Erna was very independent and loved to take the bus to Warringah Mall and Manly to do her grocery and newspaper shopping as well as doing her banking and paying bills. She loved to listen to the news, watch TV and follow horse racing; she did cross words in both languages and was a prolific letter writer. Her desk was well organised and she always knew where everything was. Later Marlies helped her with her larger groceries and drove her to appointments. She also took her to the functions at the Swiss Seniors. They shared a weekly meal at Harbord Diggers Club and did not mind a bit of gambling either.

Later on she received Meals on Wheels and a lady who came to help with the cleaning. She was offered a courtesy bus to the Harbord Diggers Club, but Erna sent the driver away and went home by bus. She did not like the idea of someone having to wait for her; 'One never knows who it could be' she used to say wearily. It was a sad day for both Erna and the Swiss Community when Marlies Redshaw passed away six years ago.



Erna with Elisabeth Roth and Verena Truninger

Another wonderful friend of Erna's was Verena Truninger who had to go and live in China for a few years. From there Verena phoned her every evening and they had entertaining conversations; this was when Erna's hearing was still super. Every week Erna would write a letter to Verena with lots of humorous and interesting news.

In 2014, just before her 100th birthday, Erna had a fall at her unit and was hospitalised. The doctors checked her capacities and found that she was no longer able to take care of herself, ordering her to go into a high-care nursing facility. Armin Roth, whom Erna had chosen as her guardian only a couple of years before, after exhausting all possibilities in her local area, was fortunate to obtain at short notice a place for her at St Hedwig's Nursing Home in Blacktown. Changing her domicile was confusing for Erna, but the warm welcome and excellent care she received helped her to settle in. There was only one hiccup: On the first night before going to sleep the staff tried to help her take out her dentures; they thought she was recalcitrant until they realised that she still possessed all her own teeth!

Three weeks after her arrival, St Hedwig's celebrated Erna's 100th Birthday in style among many old and new friends. Erna received congratulatory messages from

the local Mayor, the Premier of NSW, the Prime Minister, even from Her Majesty the Queen, which made her ever so proud. Hans Moser, member of the Swiss Yodlers, surprised her with nostalgic tunes on the Alphorn, and her two long unseen nephews, Hansruedi and Andreas May, had travelled especially from Switzerland to spend this auspicious day with her.

Little by little Erna realised that St Hedwig was now her home for good. In the friendly and lively atmosphere she enjoyed Domino, Bingo and other games and activities; her knack for figures made her win many small chocolate bars which she proudly showed off to her visitors. She participated in bus outings and in the yearly holiday excursions to the Coast. She enjoyed the beautiful gardens at St Hedwig's pushing her walking frame and later her wheelchair along the pathways among roses and flowering bushes and would often stop and admire their beauty or take in their fragrance. Although her short term memory let her down more and more, she never failed to recite a verse or two from her youth as they flashed through her mind, as for instance:

*Der weisse Flieder blüht wieder;
Ich sing Dir meine schönsten Liebeslieder,
bring Dir den Duft von weissen Flieder.*

Her cheeky sense of humour was indomitable:

*Die dunkelrote Rose,
geb' ich der schönen Frau –
was das soll bedeuten weiss sie genau!*

Or:

*Hab' Sonne im Herzen,
Der Heering macht Durst
Der Pfarrer macht Predigt,
Der Metzger die Wurst.*

Am 14 November, just three weeks before her 104th birthday, Erna Schweiberer, an extraordinarily beautiful soul, battler and thinker, fiercely independent, peacefully closed her eyes to this world. What about the hereafter? She used to chuckle: 'Mer gsehnds ja dänn!' (Well, we will find out!)

Ref Roland Maurer, Chaplain to the German speaking Catholic community in Sydney, gave Erna a beautiful farewell service at the Hostel Chapel of St Hedwig's, expressing much empathy, sprinkled with a bit of Erna's own brand of subdued humour, while Regula Scheidegger chose the most exquisite tunes on her violin to accompany Erna on her last journey.

VALE by Regula Scheidegger, Verena Truninger and Elisabeth Roth, 18 December 2018



Frauenchiemsee



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Historical Photos of the Swiss Society of NSW

A series of original photos appeared on the art market recently and were purchased by Elisabeth Roth in memory of her late husband Armin Roth, with the aim to make them accessible to the Swiss community.

We are very grateful to Elisabeth for having secured these priceless images, which form an important part of our heritage as Swiss abroad.

The photo showing the members of the Swiss Society of New South Wales with their flag may be familiar to you from the book “The Swiss in New South Wales: A History”.

The other two photos (images 2 and 3) offer a glimpse of the lives of those men and of their families. But who are they? When and where did they live? What were their daily lives like?

By publishing these photos – and there will be more in the next two issues of the SCN – we are appealing to those of you who think they can identify any of the persons or places in the photos, who have other relevant information, or who want to contribute to the task of finding out more about the history of our community.

Historical research never stops, and the discovery of these images poses new questions.

If you can identify any of the other persons in these three photos, or you would like to help with further research, please contact me by phone on 0466 979460 or email b.boss@unsw.edu.au

Bettina Boss



Swiss Society of NSW; image 1



Swiss Society of NSW; image 2



Swiss Society of NSW; image 3

From the Desk of Anne Held

PILATUS PC-24 – THE AMBULANCE IN THE SKY

In the good old times, seriously injured Australians living in the outback and remote areas had to travel far for medical help, using horse and cart or camel. Starting on 17th May 1928, the first Royal Flying Doctor Service took off in a single engine plane leased from Qantas in Cloncurry, Qld.

90 year later, in December 2018, a shiny, highly sophisticated jet aircraft made by Pilatus Aircraft Ltd in Stans (canton of Nidwalden, Switzerland), the Rio Tinto LifeFlight PC-24, was delivered at Broome International Airport to the RFDS Western Division Chief Executive Officer Rebecca Tomkinson, in presence of Rio Tinto Managing Director Pilbara Mines Stefan Buys. Besides the Commonwealth government, this recent acquisition is supported by financial assistance from Rio Tinto. Yes, the mines in the outback are good customers of the RFDS. A second jet is due to be in service later in 2019.

The gentleman with the round glasses on the \$20 bill, the Reverend John Flynn, is considered the founder of the aeromedical organisation RFDS. Starting in 1928, the service now provides 24 hours emergency service and health care to people over an area of appr. 7 million square kms from 23 bases in Australia. Their fleet of 71 aircrafts flew 2,863,558 km last year, the equivalent of 34 trips to the moon and back. For these operations, 4 different planes are used: Hawker 800XP, King Air B350C and B220 C, Cessna C208, and the Pilatus PC-12 (used in SA/NT and WA since 1995). The PC-12 is a pressurised single engine turboprop aircraft and is certified to fly by both day and night, in temperatures ranging from -55 degrees C to +50C.

The more than 30 Swiss manufactured PC-12s are now joined by the newest member of the fleet, the PC-24, a flying ambulance with a unique and innovative aeromedical interior used for medevac (medical evacuation).

The PC-24 is now used by the RFDS Western Operations. It has been specifically re-purposed according to the needs of the Flying Doctors, configured for the practical and comfortable transport of patients, some heavily and critically injured, and the medical staff looking after them. The cabin is pressurised and includes all the required medical equipment like oxygen, vacuum, monitoring and power systems

which can be easily modified depending on the missions asked of the flying helpers.



The spacious state-of-the-art interior is equipped for 3 patients on stretchers and 2 medical teams. To be on the safe side, additional security is provided by a second and separate power system. Of course, there is also a dedicated system for the vital communication among the medical team on the aircraft and on the ground. The cabin has been developed and installed with another Swiss partner company, Aerolite AG, a specialist in aircraft medical interiors. The plane is fast, it can fly at up to 815kms per hour. Short landing and take-off from unsealed, grass, gravel or bumpy airstrips are no problem. In emergencies, time is critical. The PC-24s flying time for long haul is nearly half that of other used aircrafts.



A special element is the large cargo door in the back, with an electric stretcher loading device to facilitate a safe and easy loading and unloading of patients. We have here the world's first jet offering such sophisticated features. The RFDS pilots and engineers have been specially

trained in the USA and Switzerland and doctors and nurses are getting intensive aero medical in-flight training.



I would like to express my most sincere thanks for the trust, and I am extremely proud that the RFDS now flies the PC-24 as the first Super Versatile Jet medevac operator in the world’.

Pilatus Aircraft Ltd won the overall Swiss Award a couple of years ago, when it was presented to Oscar Schwenk here in Sydney. A local subsidiary is based in Adelaide SA, and the Swiss connection continues with a second local company in Sale, Victoria, Pilatus Defence Solutions

During the handover ceremony of the key to the new PC-24 painted in white, red and blue with the registration VH-VWO (Victor Hotel - Victor Whiskey Oscar in aviation alphabet) and with the RFDS name and logo, Mr Oskar J. Schwenk, Chairman of Pilatus Aircraft Ltd, Stand NW, declared: ‘.....I am positive that the PC-24 will ideally supplement the existing fleet of PC-12s. The PC-24 will enable the RFDS to enhance the outstanding service that they provide to the Australian people. In the name of Pilatus,

Pty Ltd. This company is in charge of the new PC-21, a trainer aircraft for the Royal Australian Air Force. – Photos provided by Pilatus Australia.

heldanne@yahoo.com. Anne was the first General Manager of SwissCham Australia and currently freelance multilingual tour guide for international visitors in Sydney.



Weather Satellite Ground Unit

The Swiss-Australian subsidiary Company, Meteologix Australia Pty Ltd recently completed a project in Dubbo, New South Wales: a site had been chosen to put up two large weather satellite receiving stations. The system installed in Australia receives data directly from two geostationary weather satellites (the Japanese H8 satellite and the Chinese FY2 satellite) that routinely monitor the hemisphere over which they are stationed. These data are then processed by a computer located in Dubbo and the resulting images then go back through the internet to a site in Europe where they appear on a website for public access.

Eastern Australia was chosen for the site because imagery reception was good and the availability of high speed internet access.




A project managed by Beat Knoblauch & Associates for Meteologix Australia Pty Ltd, C/- Beat Knoblauch & Associates, Suite 1702, 109 Pitt Street, SYDNEY NSW 2000 Australia, beatek@ozemail.com.au







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Contributions to the Swiss Community News

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.



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Swiss Yodlers of Sydney

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W: swissyodlersofsydney.org

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Swiss Australian Academic Network - SAAN

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W: saan.com.au

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W: shooting.org.au

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W: swisscham.com.au

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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 1/4/2019 – 31/3/2020

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 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:

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Annual Subscription Couple: \$55.00

Payment to:

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BSB: 112-879; Account No: 061-587-992

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

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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.



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