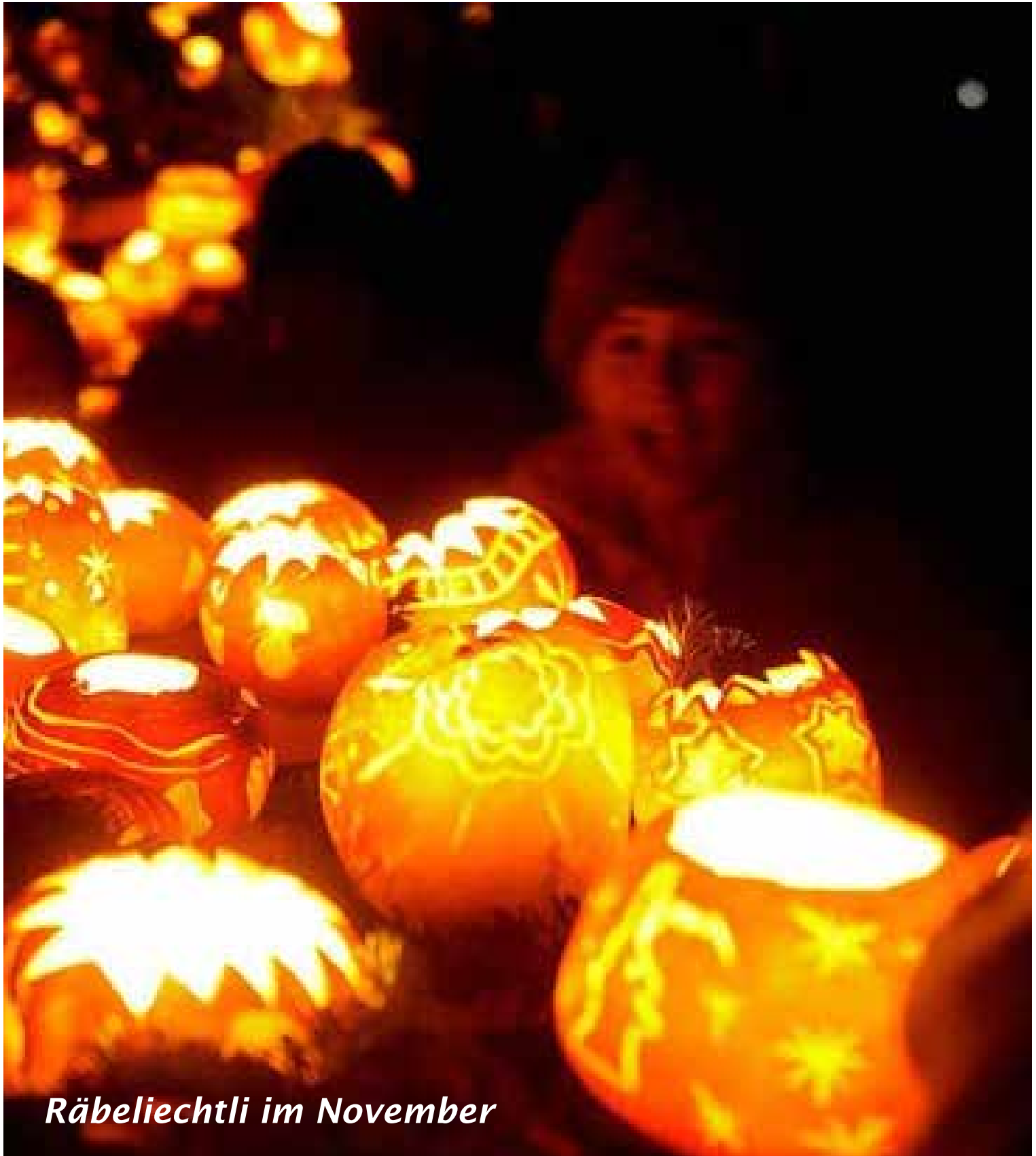




Swiss Community News

Swiss Club of New South Wales November 2024 / 253 www.swissclubnsw.com



Räbeliechtli im November



#SWISSCLUBNSW

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

2024 Calendar

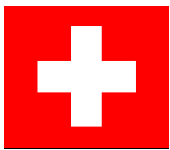
Email us your calendar entries to swisscommunitynews@gmail.com if you'd like to be included in the next edition.

November	Sunday 3	SCNSW Buurezmorge, Mosman Art Gallery, 9.15 am- 12 pm
	Fri 8 to Sun 10	Oceania Swiss Club President's Conference 2024, SwissôtelSydney
	Thursday 21	SCCS Annual General Meeting and Volunteers Dinner, Rosso Italian Restaurant, Gladesville, 6.30 pm
December	Saturday 7	Cercle Romand, end of year dinner, The Little Snail Restaurant, Pymont, from 6.30 pm
	Sunday 8	SCNSW Samichlaus, Robson Park, Haberfield, from 11.30 am
	Monday 16	SCNSW Usplampete, Pymble Hotel, Pymble, from 6.00 pm

Dates correct at time of printing. Please check with your club for any updates.



The Jassers meet every Monday night at The Pymble Hotel,
1134 Pacific Highway, Pymble 2073 from 6.30 pm



Meet up at Frenchs Forest

with Swiss from the Northern Beaches & surrounding suburbs

We meet every second Saturday of each month at The Austrian Club, 20 Grattan Crescent Frenchs Forest, from 12.30 pm for a meal, a drink, a chat or a Jass – come along. Contact Ruth 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.

The Swiss Club of NSW is an active and supportive club and we offer our members access to information regarding all Swiss interest groups in NSW. It is important to maintain ties with other Swiss groups in order to provide an interesting and enriched cultural experience for our members and wider Swiss community.

Next deadline for issue #254 is 3rd February for the March 2025 issue.

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

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

Image front cover: © <https://cdn.freizeit.ch/media/>; In many communities across the canton of Zurich, processions are held on St Martin's Day in November. Children hollow out turnips and carve them into lanterns, then place candles inside and carry them through the dark streets to the sound of music .

President's Message

Dear Members and Friends,

My recent trip to Switzerland was unexpectedly successful in terms of my health, and I have returned home with no issues. However, I will continue to require regular health monitoring over the next few years.

My trip to Switzerland left me with some concerns for the future of the local communities. The increase of daily traffic on the roads, and the number of tourists visiting the major cities and popular destinations have become a real problem for the locals. Almost every train station I visited is littered with building sites and blocks of apartments are under construction. The population has now increased to over nine million and this has led to concerns about available room to house all these people. Switzerland's society has become a more multicultural society since my last visit. It was my experience that more and more people prefer to speak English rather than Swiss-German. English is now taught in schools to children at a very young age.

The Swiss mountains, lakes and alpine scenery have not changed at all and are as beautiful as ever. However, many of the cities I visited now have mega shopping centres with an impressive and extensive display of dried meats, cheese and other Swiss delicacies, as well as countless shelves of alcohol.

While visiting Switzerland this year, another world record was broken – 1,006 alphorn players formed the largest alphorn ensemble ever to be seen. During the event, which was organised by the Swiss Yodelling Association and the Beckenried-Emmetten mountain railroads company, the alphornists performed six typical pieces in the Kuhreihen style, which lasted for a total of around 20 minutes. While I was not able to witness the event myself, I can imagine how spectacular it would have been to witness.

The 2024 Congress of the Swiss Abroad, which was held in Lucerne Switzerland in July was its 100th edition.

While the Congress has evolved over the years, its core mission remains the same: to unite the Swiss Abroad and raise awareness of their specific needs. The outcomes of these congress meetings can have positive impacts on the Swiss living abroad.

Closer to home now, the Swiss Club of NSW will offer a similar event schedule as last year. Events including the popular Buure Z'morge on Sunday, 3 November, Children's Samichlaus on Sunday, 8 December, and the Usplampete at Pymble Hotel on Monday, 16 December will be going ahead. We hope you can show your support to your Club and Swiss community by attending these upcoming events.

As some of you may know, the Swiss Club of NSW will be celebrating its 100th-year anniversary in 2026. In the next Swiss Community News which will be published early 2025, I will explain in more detail about the Swiss Club of NSW's one hundredth year anniversary. At this stage, the celebration will take place on Thursday, 5 February 2026. All Swiss Club members will be cordially invited to the event, which will be held at the Parliament House, Sydney.

I wish all our members and friends a pleasant rest of the year, and a Merry Christmas and safe New Year celebrations.

Your President,
Daniel Frutiger



Upcoming Swiss Club Events

Buure Z'morge at Mosman Art Gallery



When: Sunday, 3 November 2024 from 9. 15 am to 12 pm

Where: Mosman Art Gallery and Community Centre,
1 Art Gallery Way, Mosman NSW 2088

Cost: Members \$30/adult; Non-members \$35/adult;
\$15/child (4-12 years). Either cash on the day (the
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 are
available, so please book early. Please contact Daniel
Frutiger on 0403 502 048 or email [email dan.mar04@bigpond.com](mailto:dan.mar04@bigpond.com)
before Thursday, 31 October 2024 to
confirm your attendance.

Enjoy a delicious and authentic Buure Z'morge (Swiss Farmers Breakfast) at Mosman Art Gallery and Community Centre. There will be a selection of traditional Swiss cheeses, rohschinken, double-smoked ham, aufschnitt, bresaola, quiche Lorraine, bircher muesli, yoghurt, fruit platter, honey, jam, and a variety of bread.

All tables have a capacity of up to twelve seats. We will do our best to ensure you can sit with your friends and family if we know in advance – please inform us if you wish to sit with particular people at your table.

All-day parking is available on The Crescent along Allan Border Oval.



Upcoming Swiss Club Events

Children's Samichlaus

Children will meet Samichlaus and Schmutzli at the idyllic Robson Park near the Bay Run in Haberfield. Samichlaus will gift every child a traditional Säckli and a personal message from his *goldene Buch*. We welcome children up to eight years old and their parents to meet Samichlaus. The SCNSW will organise an arts and crafts table for the children so that they can create a gift for their parents and Samichlaus.

There is plenty of free parking along Mortley Street and Boomerang Street. The park also has a playground to keep the kids busy before Samichlaus and Schmutzli arrive. Please note that this event is weather permitting. If the weather is not suitable on the day we will contact you personally.

When: Sunday, 8 December 2024 from 11:30 am
Samichlaus arrives at 13:00.

Where: Robson Park, Mortley Ave & Boomerang Street, Haberfield NSW 2045.

Cost: Members \$15.00/child includes hot dog and Samichlaus säckli; \$20/adult includes BBQ Bratwurst/ Fleischkäse with potato salad and mixed salad and bread roll. Either cash on the day (correct amount is appreciated) or direct deposit:

Account Name: Swiss Club NSW

Account BSB: 112879

Account Number: 061587992

RSVP: Bookings are essential.

Please contact Daniel Frutiger on 0403 502 048 or email dan.mar04@bigpond.com by Tuesday, 3 December 2024 to confirm your attendance and payment option.



Members Usplampete



Join us for the last Swiss get-together for 2024 at the Pymble Hotel for dinner. All food and beverages are to be purchased at the Bistro bar. The Swiss Club will also organise a small Christmas säckli with chocolates and biscuits for all attendees. All are welcome to stay after dinner for a few games of Jass.

When: Monday, 16 December 2024 from 6 pm

Where: Pymble Hotel, 1134 Pacific Hwy, Pymble 2073

Cost: Members are free; Non-members \$5.00/person. Please pay cash on the night (correct amount is appreciated).

RSVP: Bookings are essential for Bistro catering purposes. Please contact Daniel on 0403 502 048 or email dan.mar04@bigpond.com by Monday, 9 December 2024. Unfortunately, we cannot accept walk-ins, you must have a booking with Daniel. Thank you for your cooperation.



The Swiss Yodlers of Sydney



Grüezi Mitenand,

The Swiss Yodlers had their busiest time of the year, involving the annual Swiss Day Celebrations. August began with us singing at the Swiss National Day Lunch on Thursday 1st August at the Concordia Club in Tempe, NSW, hosted by the Swiss Community Care Society. It was great to celebrate and sing to all the people that attended, and to enjoy the wonderful lunch that was provided. It was nice to catch up with some familiar faces, and to meet new people too.



We then had only a couple days to prepare for our Swiss National Day Celebration at the Castle Hill Showground on Sunday 4th August. It turned out to be a wonderful day with up to 1000 people who attended to celebrate with us, with tasty Swiss food from the BBQ, Raclette, Nussgipfel, and bakery stalls. We really appreciate everyone who came.

Kids enjoyed the face-painting, bottle fishing, boot toss, the Wilhelm Tell game, and our newest feature, the Swiss Map darts game. Along with a performance from Dance Group Alpegruess, our Alphorn players and our Swiss Yodlers, we also had great traditional music provided by the Philippe Wittwer Trio throughout the afternoon.



I wish to thank all our Yodlers, along with the Swiss Dance Group Alpegruess and all our volunteers for their hard work at this year's event. We could not

have done it without you. I'd also like to thank all our sponsors and those who have made donations and have supported us this year.

Currently, we have no other public events planned for the remainder of 2024. This is however subject to change.

This spring will be an exciting time as we have three new members planning to join our Yodlers to sing with us. Once we learn more about them, I will be happy to introduce them! Should you have any questions about our Yodlers, or wish to contact us, please refer to our website at: <https://swissyodlersofsydney.org/>



Viele Grüsse,
Daniel Hofmann, President

Swiss Entrepreneurs



Fotos © Swiss Entrepreneurs

20 Jahre Swiss Entrepreneurs in Sydney

Alles begann bei einem Mittagessen, bei dem einige der Schweizer Unternehmer Ideen und Erfahrungen bei der Geschäftstätigkeit in Australien austauschten. Nach ein paar lockeren monatlichen Zusammenkünften vergrößerte sich der Personenkreis und es zeigte sich, dass in der Schweizer Geschäftswelt ein Bedarf an regelmäßigem Austausch bestand. Es wurde beschlossen, uns jeden ersten Mittwoch im Monat zunächst im Löwenbräu und später im Lord Nelson Hotel in The Rocks zu treffen, wo wir uns bis heute treffen. Das einfache Konzept des lockeren Treffens beim Mittagessen ohne finanzielle Verpflichtungen oder Vereinszugehörigkeit hat sich als Erfolg der Schweizer Unternehmer erwiesen. Die meisten unserer „Stammkunden“ sind Kleinunternehmer, die den Kontakt zu Gleichgesinnten suchen. Das Swiss Entrepreneur-Konzept bietet Kleinunternehmern eine Plattform, um andere Unternehmer zu treffen und Ideen auszutauschen und Netzwerkmöglichkeiten zu schaffen. Wir können mit Stolz sagen, dass unsere Stammgäste dank Swiss Entrepreneurs miteinander ins Geschäft gekommen sind, Unternehmen gegründet haben, ihre Karriere vorangebracht und Arbeitsmöglichkeiten gefunden haben – und langjährige Freundschaften. Wenn Sie der Meinung sind, dass die Schweizer Unternehmer für Sie nützlich sein könnten und sich uns anschließen möchten, melden Sie sich für unseren Newsletter an. Wir freuen uns darauf, Sie beim nächsten Treffen zu treffen.

Treffen Sie uns in dieser informellen
Gelegenheit zum sozialen Networking.

20 years of Swiss Entrepreneurs in Sydney

It all started with a lunch, where some of the Swiss entrepreneurs exchanged ideas and experiences of doing business in Australia. After a few casual monthly meetings, the group of people grew and it became apparent that there was a need for regular exchange in the Swiss business world. It was decided to meet us every first Wednesday of the month, first at the Löwenbräu and later at the Lord Nelson Hotel in The Rocks, where we still meet today. The simple concept of a casual meeting at lunch without financial obligations or club affiliation has proven to be a success for Swiss entrepreneurs. Most of our "regular customers" are small business owners who are looking for contact with like-minded people.

The Swiss Entrepreneur concept provides a platform for small business owners to meet other entrepreneurs and exchange ideas and create networking opportunities. We can proudly say that thanks to Swiss Entrepreneurs, our regular guests have done business with each other, founded companies, advanced their career paths and found employment opportunities – and long-lasting friendships.



Fotos © Swiss Entrepreneurs

Foto © CCP

Swiss Entrepreneurs Sydney, Contact Person: Urs Schaller
T.: + 61 04 09 99 30 30, E.: sydney@swissentrepreneurs.org
W.: www.swissentrepreneurs.org

Treffpunkt: Lord Nelson Hotel: www.lordnelsonbrewery.com

From the Desk of Anne Held

TRAVELLING BACK TO EARLY SYDNEY

Our city of Sydney today has a population of about five and a half million inhabitants and is growing fast, growing in height and density, north, west, south: a vibrant multicultural environment. Looking at the skyline today, it is hard to imagine the scene some 236 years ago, when the First Fleet under the command of Captain Arthur Phillip sailed into Port Jackson on that fateful 26th January 1788 and landed at Sydney Cove/Warrane. There must have been surprise, curiosity, amazement, amusement, wondering, questioning, fear, inquisitiveness, uncertainty, hiding and chasing – all from the British side as well as from the side of the Gadigal and other peoples of the Eora nation, the traditional



Sydney Harbour 2024 from Watsons Bay, photo Anne Held

custodians of this area.

Today, we can still see many landmarks from the time when the British arrived. Here are just a few examples: Walking around the Rocks, there is honey-coloured sandstone just about everywhere, used as building material by the convicts for the first dwellings, walls, tracks, bridges, forts. The Parbury Ruins dating back to the 1820's were excavated in 2000 during the construction of an apartment block in Millers Point, with remains of a 2-bedroom cottage, a stone kitchen and fireplace, a sink, a verandah and a well. You can walk past Cadman's Cottage, built in 1816 for the government coxswains and where the water reached within just 2m from the simple white building. Go inside the foyer of the old General Post Office, now the Fullerton Hotel at Martin Place, take the stairs to the basement where you can learn about the history of the famous building above you, and you will find sections of the brick drains of the Tank stream, the first source of fresh water for the young colony. Did you know that an outlet of this Tank stream is connected to the Tank Stream Fountain with its wonderful display of Australian plants and animals in the plaza corner George and Alfred Streets, the location

where the stream used to reach the harbour. Many streets are named after British governors (Hunter, King, Macquarie, Darling etc.). In Bridge Street, you find the foundations of Sydney's first Government House, laid in 1788 by Arthur Phillip. You will have to peep through a window in the forecourt, as the modern Museum of Sydney has been built over the site, and the 'new' Government House (opened in 1845) is now proudly standing in the Botanic Gardens.

Wouldn't it be great to be able to time-travel and discover the whole area as it looked some 200+ years ago? Thanks to a well-known local Swiss businessman we can get some interesting visual impressions of the foundation and early years of the first and today largest city in Australia, from penal settlement set up by the British, through to colonial times and then finally to Federation in 1901.

Of course you will know Beat Knoblauch! Former President of the Swiss University Graduates in Australia, former Chairman of SwissCham Australia, winner of the Swiss Business Award for special achievements in Swiss-Australian connections, Attaché to the Swiss Paralympic Team during the Sydney 2000 Paralympics, and for many years now our very dedicated delegate to the Council of the Swiss Abroad CSA. These are only a few of his numerous activities. Beat grew up in Egypt and Switzerland, studied law at Berne university, and after his military service took up business postings in Mexico, South Korea, Hongkong, Java and Iran. He arrived in Sydney in 1976, in charge of the subsidiary of a Swiss fiduciary company. He soon bought out the local company and founded his own business providing specialised managerial, financial and legal services to overseas corporations and individual investors seeking to establish themselves in Australia.



City of Sydney, late 19th century

Not only a dedicated businessman, Beat is also a passionate art collector and is today the proud owner of a unique private collection of more than 300 engravings, prints, water colours, paintings, photographs and postcard souvenir books, probably one of the most

important private collections of early Sydney, all created by convict artists, government and military officials, later on by independent artists, settlers or visitors from different European countries. Before photography, these pictures were used to report about the progress of the young colony of NSW, and informing about the Aboriginal people, the landscapes as seen from different directions, the local flora and fauna, everyday life of convicts and British soldiers, and finally new settlers, tradespeople and farmers. Looking back at history, it is clear that the drawings and prints did not always document the harsh reality of early life in the colony but were intended to attract new immigrants and overseas investment.



A rare view of Fort Denison

But the natural beauty of the landscape, the coastline, the harbour, the rivers is certainly recognised. And sometimes, we can discover intriguing little details in a print, which make you wonder ‘what happened here, what is the story?’. For example, in a lithograph of the old Military Barracks ca. 1880, an Aboriginal man in a coat is seen dipping his hat to a British soldier. In another stunning watercolour of the Gap ca. 1879, there is a tiny white figure standing on a cliff – ready to jump or just sightseeing? A hand-coloured engraving dating to ca. 1865 shows prisoners attempting to escape Darlinghurst Goal. Later in the 1880’s, panoramic and aerial views of Sydney were developed and in the Knoblauch Collection, there is a wonderful colour lithograph showing the city at the height of prosperity and getting ready for the upcoming 1888 Centenary celebrations, as seen from above.

The first time Beat showed parts of his remarkable collection to the public was in 1996 at the S.H. Ervin Gallery on Observatory Hill, a group event by the National Trust showing art treasures in corporate collections, in association with the Sydney Festival. In 1999, ‘Unexpected Views - images of early Sydney’ was shown at the Hyde Park Barracks, again as part of the Sydney Festival 1999. And from May 2007 to April 2008, an exclusive show ‘Sydney Views 1788-1888’ was exhibited at the Museum of Sydney. In early 2025, we will be able to admire a large selection of Beat’s pictures again. Museums of History NSW, considered ‘the home of history in NSW’, is preparing a special exhibition from

the Museum, Caroline Simpson, and State Archives Collections. More details will be published in the next issue of Swiss Community News and other relevant media. Together with Beat’s prints, there will be a range of other historic objects and artifacts. As a visitor to such historic exhibitions, it is always a special experience to stand in a certain place or a specific old building and at the same time, see it through the eyes of the artist. How sad to realise how much has been lost, like the amazing Australian International Exhibition Building in the Botanic Gardens, which tragically burnt down in 1882. There are no more windmills and many of the splendid colonial villas and imposing forts have also disappeared.

Beat’s 330+ art works, many of them quite rare, are documented in a huge catalogue, indicating the title and the date, the description of what is shown, the name of the artist/engraver/publisher, the physical condition, when and where bought and from whom.

Many are guaranteed to be over 100 years old. Is Beat still interested in adding more to his collection? ‘Oh yes! My trusted antique books and art dealers always make me aware of new discoveries and of upcoming auctions. Or I happen to uncover something beautiful that catches my eye and appeals to me. I have a general interest in anything showing this exciting early period of our city of Sydney and surroundings’. And where does he keep all his treasures? Many decorate the walls of his home, others are kept safe in their wrapping, or might have been sent out for re-framing by a specialist. Many are displayed or stacked up in his office. People still talk about a legendary Hanging Party when Beat moved to a new office and all the guests at the opening had to hang a picture on the walls. However, surprisingly, when entering his office in Pitt Street in the Sydney CBD, you feel like you have stepped into an amazing gallery of colourful contemporary Aboriginal art! Well, that is another story about Beat Knoblauch, the never-tiring enthusiastic art collector. – heldanne@yahoo.com



Beat with A View of Sydney Heads near Manly, ca. 1877

An Intrepid Swiss Downunder



Xavier Mertz with husky; image: Australian Government, Australian Antarctic Division

There are not many Swiss who have left an indelible mark in Antarctica and Australia, in fact there is only one whose memorial stands within the icy expanses of the earth's southernmost continent and has a commemorative plaque to his life in Tasmania's capital city of Hobart.

His name is Xavier Mertz, and we are most grateful to the Swiss Community Care Society who made it possible for its members and friends to hear and learn about this extraordinary scientist and explorer, at the screening of a film earlier this year within the elegant confines of Parliament House, followed by a scrumptious High Tea.

The film, entitled 'Tracing a Fatal Journey' was introduced to the audience the Society's resourceful and creative function organiser Beat Birchmeier, who highlighted the contrast between modern Antarctic tourism and working conditions, as against the unspeakable hardship and deprivation early explorers had to endure on that stormy and icy continent.

The film is a product of Jost auf der Mauer, presumably the last member of the Mertz clan, who was fascinated by the feat of his ancestor and decided to personally make the journey, albeit by modern means, to Australia, board a tourist ship from Hobart to Macquarie Island and from there to Antarctica, which the purpose of tracing the 1911 – 1914 Antarctic expedition led by Australian Douglas Mawson, who had engaged Xavier Mertz as one of the leading scientists.

In the film, Jost auf der Mauer tells in an engaging way of his excitement as the Russian tourist vessel finally approached giant Antarctic icebergs among enormous ice sheets. However, after the very experienced Russian captain had been manoeuvring the ship through these treacherous waters for days, and perceiving the real danger of getting locked in, he and his second in charge had to decide to turn the ship around before it was too

late, and with the crew speaking perfect English, the passengers had to abandon the prospect of setting foot on mainland with their expectation of setting their eyes on Mawson's hut yet remaining but a dream. ('Verschollen in der Antarktik' by Jost auf der Mauer, published by Echtzeit, ISBN 10:390 5800 748)

But back to Xavier Mertz: He was born on 6 October 1882 in Basel, where his father Emile ran a large engineering company, manufacturing textile machinery. With the prospect of entering the family business, Xavier studied Patent Law in Berne. There he became an enthusiastic mountaineer and skier, winning many championships. After obtaining his doctorate in law, he studied Science in Lausanne where he specialised in glacier and mountain formations, for which he received his second doctorate.

Xavier Mertz was engaged by Douglas Mawson in 1911 as a ski instructor for the Australasian Antarctic Expedition 1911 – 1914, and together with Lieutenant Belgrave Ninnis, he was responsible for the expedition's Greenland huskies. In 1912, Mertz was selected by Mawson to accompany him as a member of the Far Eastern Party to explore King George V Land, toward South Victoria Land. This became one of the most epic journeys in Antarctic history.

On one of their exploratory journeys, braving fierce and icy catabatic winds endemic to the regions, and about 500 km away from base, in a fateful catastrophe, Ninnis and his dog sledge, carrying most of the necessary provisions, disappeared into a crevasse.

Without their good friend, spare food, clothing or shelter, Mawson and Mertz had to start their way back to base. On Christmas day 1912, they had covered nearly half the distance, but with no food for the dogs, of which the weakest ones had to serve as food for the men, Mertz became extremely ill and weak and on 8 January he gave up his spirit.



The Aurora; image: wikipedia

Mawson wrote in his diary that he had fashioned a cross and erected it at Xavier Mertz' resting site. Alone and with almost superhuman determination he then fought his way back to the hut and arrived, emaciate beyond recognition, where six of his men were waiting for the return of the party. The 'Aurora' had left a few days before and it took months until the ship could return to pick up the remaining men and bring them back to Hobart.

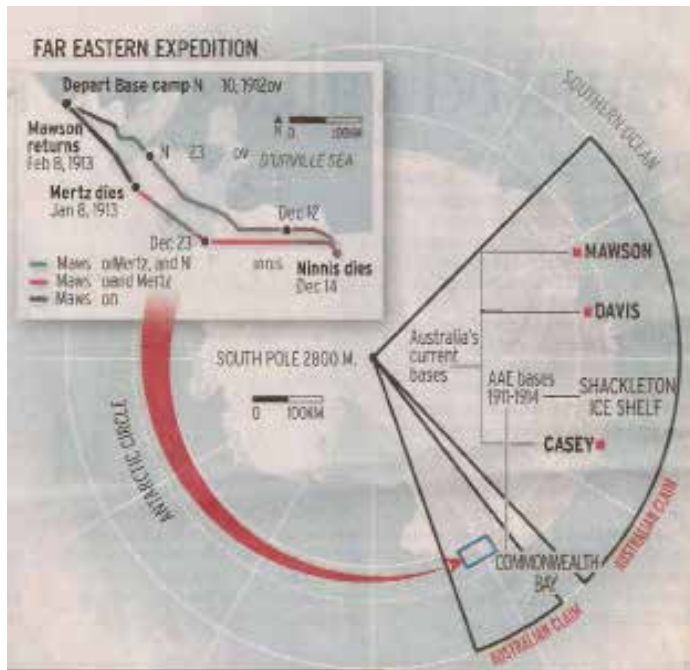


image: Sydney Morning Herald 2.11.2011

In the Sydney Morning Herald of 2 November 2011, commemorating the centenary of the expedition, we read: 'The mental and physical toughness of those who spent months of long-haul waling, sledging with dogs, sleeping in the coldest, windiest and driest continent is indescribable.'

The Australian Antarctic Division Chief Scientist, John Gunn, says that the scientific legacy of the early explorers is still relevant. 'Mawson's expeditions were wide-ranging and included studies of the weather, the oceans, geology, physics, biology, glaciology, and bacteriology. Mawson began a series of weather reports that continue being part of scientific work predicting weather patterns and understanding climate change. Much of today's science can be traced back to the expeditions of the Norwegian, Swiss, British and Australian expeditions of that time. The information coming out of Antarctica has added to an understanding of the changes in oceanography and the global environment. More than any other continent it has recorded meaningful lessons about the science of the planet. In a sense, Antarctica is the laboratory of climate science.'

A memorial commemorating the Australasian Antarctic Expedition 1911 – 1914 including two inscriptions of lives lost were unveiled on Tuesday 25 May 2021 by the Swiss Ambassador to Australia, Pedro Zwahlen and the British High Commissioner to Australia, at Mawson's Place in Hobart, jointly funded by the UK and Swiss governments and the Mawson's Huts Foundation.

The inscription on the left is dedicated to Lieutenant Belgrave Edward Ninnis, 22 January 1887 – 14 December 1912 who lost his life falling into a crevasse together with all his sledges, huskies and supplies. The right hand inscription reads:

Doctor Xavier Guillaume Mertz
6 October 1882 – 8 January 1913

Xavier Mertz died in a tent on the Antarctic Plateau from the effects of starvation and exhaustion during the 1911 – 1914 Australasian Antarctic Expedition.

Born in Basel, Switzerland, Merz was a national ski-running champion, Doctor of Laws from the University of Berne and Doctor of Geology from the University of Lausanne. Merz, charged with looking after the huskies with his friend Belgrave Ninnis and nicknamed 'X' by his colleagues, was buried in the slopes of a glacier named after him of Antarctica's George V coast, his grave marked with a pair of skis.

"It was unutteringly sad that he should have perished thus, after the splendid work he had accomplished not only on that particular sledging journey but throughout the expedition. No one could have done better. Favoured with a generous lovable character, he had been a general favourite amongst all members of the expedition." - "The Home of the Blizzard" – Sir Douglas Mawson's expedition account.

Elisabeth Roth - September 2024



Xavier Mertz; images wikipedia



[EN] A further article about Xavier Mertz written by Ursula Schaeppi was published in issue 238 of the SCN.

JASSEN / GAMES IN TEMPE



A group of Swiss people meet at lunch time on every first Friday of the month at the Concordia Club in Tempe to play cards or other interesting games.

If interested please get in touch with Felix at jasstempe@gmail.com



'Arve-Stübli' for Sale

includes

Buffet 181 x 119 x 46 cm

Corner Cabinet/Eck-Kästli 181 x 85 x 55 cm

extendable Table 110 x 84/200 cm

4 chairs/Stabellen



The furniture was imported and has been used in Sydney for decades and needs a little freshening up; Buffet/Corner cabinet may be sold separately from table and chairs.

All offers welcome. Pick up from North Sydney at own expense.

Email your interest to: ursul.sch@gmail.com or call 0407 995578.

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From the Cercle Romand

Dear Members and Friends,

The Cercle Romand AGM took place on 29 September 2024. The president, Anne Resplendino, greeted the audience and special guest, Consul General Mrs Elisabeth Boesch Malinen.

Anne reviewed the activities organised by the club and confirmed that the Cercle Romand is doing well with membership numbers remaining stable. Our committee member Suzanne Giacomini did not wish to resume her position but all other committee members were happy to continue in their current position for another year and, were re-elected unanimously.

Only two events remain on our 2024 calendar. A camping / week-end away is scheduled for 25-26-27 October in Mudgee NSW. We know that not everyone is

keen to go camping and for this reason, we have chosen to go to Mudgee. This charming little town offers a variety of accommodation that would suit anybody's needs. We are planning for a relaxing week-end with a few activities that will most likely include food tasting and perhaps the visit of a winery.

The end of year dinner is scheduled on 7 December to take place at the Little Snail Restaurant.

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

Daniel Sottaz – secretary
Cercle Romand Sydney



Le Cercle Romand...que du bon temps

Website: cercleromand.com.au, Email: cercleromand@gmail.com
Facebook : Cercle Romand Sydney

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 from noon 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 in front of William Tel
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!)

For enquiries call Regula on 0432 031 085



Members Corner

Welcome to our new members

Daniel Hofman
Pamela Freitag Samara Barchet
Melissa Karlsson
Balise Beuchat

Mark Barchet

Thank you for
signing up with the Swiss Club.

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Congratulations to

**Margrit Frischknecht
Margaret Melliger-Stocker
who are celebrating their
80th birthday.**

We wish you all a wonderful birthday and the very best for the coming year!

The Old Swiss Club Library

A document of an epoch of Swiss migration to Australia



In his report, forwarded on 4 February 1962 to the Cultural Federation of Europeans in Australia, Kaspar Vetsch, then Honorary Secretary of the Swiss Club of NSW, writes:

“...Efforts were maintained to foster the Swiss atmosphere in the clubrooms and at least twice or three times a week rooms were opened for the benefit of newcomers, especially

the younger generation. It was a place where they could feel ‘at home’, bring friends and get advice. The social side took on a livelier aspect, with picnics, dances, picture evenings, discussions, talks on travel experiences and lectures. A gymnastic group on the lines of the well-known ‘Kunstturner’ had a lively time and enjoyed great popularity, the men’s choir to uphold the art of Swiss songs, Lieder and Yodels did very well, and a small Library of Swiss authors had its beginnings.

The new home for the Club, situated at 35 Bruce Street, Stanmore, was officially opened by the Swiss Consul General, Mr H Hedinger on 20th January 1951. In time it is hoped to make it the centre of the whole Swiss Community in Sydney and New South Wales...”

As older members may remember, the ‘Swiss house’ in Bruce Street had to be sold by the end of 1962 due to the club being considered ‘too noisy’ within an old and quiet suburban residential area. Consequently, the “small Library of Swiss authors that had its beginning” as Kaspar Vetsch mentions in his report together with other things the club had accumulated over the years had to be moved and storage had to be found. At some stage, Primo Calabresi, a long time and supportive member of the Swiss Club and working for a Swiss company in Sydney, had found temporary storage at work for these ‘Swiss things’. It just so happened that by the end of 1976 my husband Armin and I had bought a family home in Mascot, close to work, when Primo told the committee that his company was moving, and new storage was needed for the things from Stanmore. When Primo asked Armin if he had a garage, Armin naively said, ‘yes, a big one’, and Primo begged him not to store anything in it until he paid him a visit in the coming week. Primo turned up with a big truck and stacked boxes and boxes of things against the inside walls of our garage.

Our youngest daughter had just been born, and we had not much time to worry about the contents of these boxes, until, after a big rainstorm, we noticed that moisture had crept into some of the cartons and with permission from

the Committee, we up- and recycled most of what was of no more use; these things were mostly kitchen utensils, tablecloths, and curtains. However, in the last few boxes we were surprised to find about a hundred books, mostly intact and we took them into the house to keep them safe and to look through them; it was a most interesting exercise. We soon realised that this was a precious treasure, some books dating from the late eighteen hundreds, prayer books, song books, trade manuals, a big collection of poetry and classic Swiss and German authors, books about Switzerland and other countries, reference books on law, history, philosophy, child caring and household helps, etc. A few were in French, some in Italian and very few in English. Most were published in the last nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. We were wondering, how did they get here? Who were the people who brought them to Australia?

All we could and can assume even now, is that they must have been brought to Australia by early Swiss emigrants, people who left, or had to leave, their homeland and maybe packed, woefully or with anticipated hope, a favourite book, or a whole series of them, into their luggage, something that may be of useful guidance or spiritual nourishment while travelling or upon reaching this country.

We were impressed by the numerous individual handwritten dedications under the front covers of these books; they speak to the heart and are a testimony of love and encouragement by family and friends. Their well-meaning words would have been treasured by the travellers on their journeys and beyond. These books, considered valuable by whoever handled and appreciated them, might then have been brought to gatherings of the Swiss community in the early years and thus, the “small Library of Swiss authors”, which Kaspar Vetsch mentioned, might have been realised.

I believe that these books give a poignant account as to what was important for these early emigrants from Switzerland. They provide a vivid indication as to the literature they liked, needed, and treasured in at least the first years of their separation from their homeland. We can also glean that those many Swiss authors, like Jeremias Gotthelf, Gottfried Keller, C.F Meyer etc. and German classics like Schiller, Goethe, Moerike, Uhland and many others made up a considerable part of their preferred literature. We have multiple publications of these classics, and they are eminently readable still, albeit some in Gothic font. Altogether they open a window into an epoch of Swiss emigration to Australia that depicts their professional and intellectual learnings and pursuits, and thus deserve to be esteemed and preserved.

Over the years, and unsolicited, many more boxes of books have found their way to our house, mostly from descendants of compatriots who have passed away, and their books were considered precious enough to let them ‘live on’.

Often the new generations were unable to cope with the language but were aware of the value of books left behind by their emigrant ancestors. We kept all books published before the end of the 19th and into the 20th century, while those brought into the country after sea and air travel was easier were passed on to institutions that make books freely available to readers.

A point of reference to this "small Library of Swiss Authors" is the present list drawn up by Ursula Schaeppi who kindly offered her help and produced a truly professional record of its ninety-two books, including some sixteen columns of criteria. Her passion and patience were impressive, and we are truly grateful for her generosity and effort.

It was on the basis of these records that forty-one books were selected by the Swiss National Museum for an

exhibition by the 'Forum of Swiss History' with the topic 'Swiss emigration from 19th century onward', featuring in the section 'Migration to Australia', and held during the summer of 2019 in Schwyz, Central Switzerland and later in Zurich.

Realising that a long term home for this specific window into our history is necessary, it is suggested to pass these books on to a library or museum that will ensure accessibility to anyone interested. But before this, we hope to exhibit them, or a selection thereof, for our Swiss community on the forthcoming 100th birthday of the Swiss Club of NSW, which according to our records, will occur on 5 February 2026.

Elisabeth Roth

Swiss Community Care Society (SCCS)

On Thursday 1st of August, more than 90 Swiss people had a great National Day Luncheon at the Concordia Club in Tempe. Apart from enjoying fine food and the company of Swiss compatriots we were impressed by the entertainment of the Yodlers. Only four days later, at their annual, always impressive, Picnic in Castle Hill SCCS was present with an information stall.

Soon after, my husband and I flew to Europe. This year we wanted to spend more time than usual in the old home country, where we travelled or walked to several very impressive destinations where we had never been before, e.g. Niesen, Schynige Platte and Creux du Van (the Swiss Grand Canyon in the Jura).

Walking through the old towns of Thun and Murten and visiting different castles were other highlights, but perhaps the most unusual one for us was the exhibition of the giant Planggenstock Crystals in the

"Naturhistorisches Museum" Berne. They were found in Canton Uri about 20 years ago and the story of how they came into daylight is most fascinating in itself. One of those Crystals clusters weighs 300 kg. The intensity of its beaming is unbelievable. I would love to send you these beams with my good wishes for the rest of the year.

Regula Scheidegger



Swiss
Community Care
Society

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Swiss
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Society

Would you be able to volunteer for us?

We are looking for someone, who would like to be in regular touch with a recently retired man on the Northern Beaches.

He would love to be visited or taken out by an interesting person for a cup of coffee or other light activity in his area.

Due to his health problems, he can no longer drive.

If interested please call R. Scheidegger on 0432 031 085

Swiss Club References

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Check out our Swiss Club of NSW website at www.swissclubnsw.com.

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 1/4/2024 – 31/3/2025

	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 \$48.00 (including enrolment)
 P Partner / couple membership \$68.00 (including enrolment)

Cost:
Enrolment fee: \$11.00
Annual Subscription Single: \$37.00
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Payment to:
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- 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.

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Die 20 Gewinner:innen (Auslandschweizer:innen mit Wohnsitz im Ausland) erhalten
1 Promotionscode, mit dem sie 75% Rabatt auf einen SwissTravel Pass ihrer Wahl erhalten (2. Klasse, maximal 15 Tage Gültigkeit/Flex), einlösbar im Dezember 2024 und Januar 2025).

Dies ist eine einmalige Gelegenheit, die Schweiz bei einem Besuch über die Feiertage in aller Freiheit zu geniessen!

Alle Informationen über den Wettbewerb werden ab dem 15. Oktober auf unserer Website verfügbar sein.

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