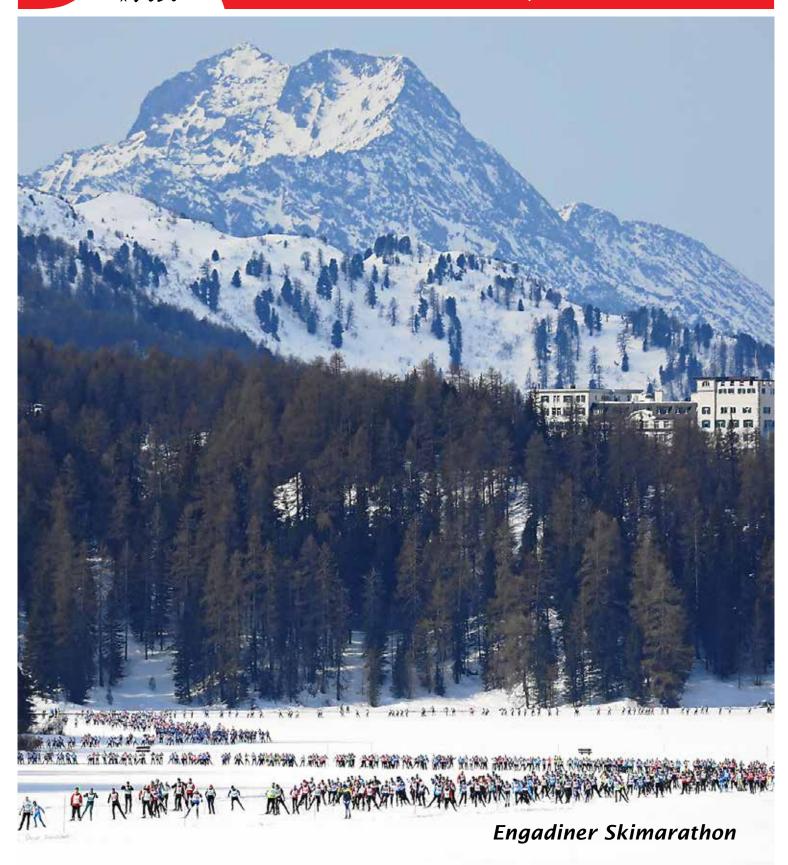
SWISS COMMUNITY NEWS *WSW Swiss Club of New South Wales March 2025 / 254 www.swissclubnsw.c

www.swissclubnsw.com





2025 Calendar

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

February	Sunday 23	Cercle Romand Petanque, Birchgrove, 11 am	
March	Sunday 23	SCNSW Mushroom Foraging Hampton Forest, meet at 9.15 am at Millionth Acre Recreation Area	
May	Sunday 25	SCNSW Buure Z'morge, Mosman Art Gallery, 9.15 am- 12 pm	
June	Sunday 22	SCNSW AGM, Royal Hotel Leichhardt, 11.30 am	
July	Sunday 13	SCNSW Coastal Walk (whale watching), North Heads, details TBA	

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.

Image front cover: The Engadin Skimarathon is an annual cross-country skiing race (ski marathon) held on the second Sunday of March in the upper Engadine valley (Switzerland), between Maloja and S-chanf. It debuted in 1969 and has been a part of Worldloppet as long as Worldloppet has existed.[1] It is one of the major cross-country skiing events in the Alps. Between 11,000 and 14,200 skiers participate each year. The total distance covered is 42 km, although it is also possible to complete the half-marathon of 21 km (finishing in Pontresina) or the 17 km Women's Race (Samedan to S-chanf). While it is a freestyle race, there are separate tracks for skiers practicing classic style for all but the narrowest parts of the race. Participation is open to anyone from the age of 16. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Engadin_Skimarathon) I

Next deadline for issue #255 is 3rd June for the July 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: © Engadin Skimarathon, CC BY-SA 4.0 https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

President's Message

Dear Members and Friends,

I hope you had a wonderful and safe festive season and are looking forward to a successful new year ahead. The Children's Samichlaus event at Robson Park in Haberfield was visited by 15 children and 35 adults who all enjoyed the visit of Samichlaus and Schmutzli. The children received säcklis, which were again this year a very special gift, kindly handcrafted by our member, Ruth Will. We sincerely thank Ruth for her amazing efforts year after year making the säcklis. Special thanks also go to Pierre Pesenti again for volunteering to be a joyful Samichlaus, and Maria Frutiger for volunteering to be the scary Schmutzli. We also thank the volunteers who helped with decorating, cleaning and cooking on the day.

The Member's Usplampete event at the Royal Hotel Leichhardt proved again a success with 35 members attending. The Swiss Club gifted everyone a Christmas goodies bag with chocolates and biscuits. Peanuts and fresh mandarins were also decorated on all tables for the attendees to enjoy throughout the night.

In 2025, the Swiss Club will offer our usual popular events, and we anticipate your support in attending some of our events throughout the year. Please refer to the Event Calendar on the previous page for further details about upcoming events. Please also make sure that you receive our free monthly newsflashes, which also list upcoming events and any changes to events.

The Swiss Club board of directors is looking for younger, enthusiastic volunteers who are willing to make a positive contribution to the running of the Club, and to ensure our culture and traditions are kept alive for the next generations of Swiss in NSW. If you are interested in being involved, please contact any of our directors to get more information about volunteering and time spent with the Club.

The Swiss Club's 100th year celebration is approaching fast, and the Club is now accepting your attendance, please ensure you book in with us early to avoid disappointment, as we have limited numbers available. We have booked the Stranger Room at the NSW Parliament House for Thursday, 5 February 2026 from 11.30 to 15.00. On the day, we will have presentations, displays of Swiss artefacts, photos of years gone by, and historical documents pertaining to the Swiss in

NSW. Food and beverages will be served throughout the afternoon. All financial Swiss Club members, Life Members and Honorary Members will be invited to attend for free. All correspondence needs to be addressed to Daniel Frutiger, President of the Swiss Club of NSW, either by mobile on 0403 502 048 or emailed via dan.mar04@bigpond.com. By booking this event you agree to attend in advance —your commitment to this celebratory milestone is greatly appreciated.

Due to popular demand, our annual Wild Mushroom Foraging event will be on again this year and is scheduled for the end of March. Weather and conditions will determine exact time and date for this event. Please refer to the March newsflash for updates.

A coastal or bush walk event is also being considered for middle of July (perhaps for possible whale spotting) with a hearty Bündner Gerstensuppe with Wienerli for lunch.

Our ever-popular Buure Z'morge event will also be on again and is scheduled for Sunday, 25 May at the Mosman Art Gallery. Early bookings are always appreciated to avoid missing out, as last time we had to unfortunately turn bookings away due to limited numbers available. Let's hope there will be room this time for those who missed out last event.

I will remain as President of the Swiss Club of NSW in 2025 and look forward to welcoming you at one of your future events. Please consider supporting the Club that supports you and the Swiss community in NSW. We aim to continue to host Swiss cultural events in Sydney for all Swiss to enjoy. Wishing you all a pleasant end to the summer holiday and fresh start to the year.

Your President,

Daniel Frutiger





Past Swiss Club Events

Buure Z'morge at Mosman Art Gallery



On Sunday, 3 November we hosted a Buure Z'morge (Swiss Farmers' Breakfast) event in the Grand Hall at the Mosman Art Gallery and Community Centre.

We had a record attendance with over 135 guests this time! We offered tea and coffee, a selection of Swiss cheeses from F Mayer Imports, fleischkäse, bresola, coppa, prosciutto, and bratwurst from German Butchery Deli & Café and Spiess Australia, mini quiches and birchermüesli, hard-boiled eggs with mayonnaise, a fruit platter, honey, and jams; and, who could forget the wide selection of delicious, crusty Swiss bread from Organic Bread Bar who kindly baked us Zopf for the event. After the buffet, our guests had the opportunity to purchase Swiss goodies like cheese, birchermüesli, cured meats, and more.

This time, we organised a kid's activity table to keep all the little one's busy while their parents had the opportunity to catch up with fellow compatriots. This proved to be a hit with all kids, young and old.

Special and sincere appreciation goes to Ruth and Sigi Achermann from the Swiss Community Care Society, who personally paid for all the entertainment on the day. The Grand Hall was filled with wonderful folk music by John from QLD on the accordion, and Hugo Pfandler on the banjo.

We want to thank the Board of Directors and their wonderful volunteers who helped on the day and the days leading up to the event. Their continual efforts make this event possible and a favourite among the Swiss community in Sydney. Once again, we thank the Mosman Art Gallery and Community Centre for providing a beautiful space that our guests enjoyed and a fully equipped kitchen. Lastly, we thank everyone who attended and supported your Swiss community. We hope you had a wonderful day and enjoyed the Swiss food.











Past Swiss Club Events

Children's Samichlaus



On Sunday, 8 December 2024, Samichlaus and Schmutzli made a cheerful visit to approximately 15 Swiss children and their families at Robson

Park in Haberfield. Robson Park provided a secluded, little spot for our event, situated under large canopying trees and facing The Bay Run. The children had the whole playground while parents set up a picnic and mingled.

While the children waited for Samichlaus, they were entertained with an arts and crafts table.

Samichlaus and Schmutzli made a cheerful entrance on their motorbike ringing Christmas bells. Schmutzli was carrying his broom, made of creepy branches, and a large sack with bells full of presents. As we had so many children this year, Samichlaus' messages from his Golden-Buch were kept short. He and Schmutzli presented each child with a Claus-säckli. Inside the säckli were lots of Swiss Christmas goodies.

We would like to especially thank Ruth Will who again expertly handcrafted all the Claus-säckli's for every child. Lastly, we wish to thank Pierre Pesenti again for volunteering to be a joyful Samichlaus on the day.

Thank you to everyone who attended and for supporting your Swiss community. We hope you had a wonderful day, and all the children enjoyed their gifts.

Past Swiss Club Events

Members Usplampete at the Royal Leichhardt

On Monday, 16 December 2024, approximately 30 Swiss Club of NSW members gathered at The Royal Leichhardt for an Usplampete, a last get-together to celebrate the end of the year. The Swiss Club gifted all attendees a Christmas säckli filled with Christmas biscuits and chocolates. This small, but delicious gift to our members was to thank them for another year of supporting their Club and Swiss community.



The tables were decorated with mandarins and peanuts for members to snack on or take home if they desired. After a few welcome drinks, we all sat together for dinner and enjoyed good conversations. Many of the attendees stayed on after dinner to play a few games of Jass to close the night.

The Swiss Club would like to sincerely thank again all our members and friends who have supported us this year. Your continual support in the form of renewing memberships, attending events, volunteering, and generous donations means that we can continue to function as a Club and offer events for the Swiss community in NSW.











For more photos of our past events, please visit our website, Facebook, and Instagram.

Upcoming Swiss Club Events

Wild Mushroom Foraging

Come on a journey with us to the secluded <u>Hampton State Forest</u> where wild mushrooms 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 find two types of edible mushrooms: Saffron Milk Caps and Slippery Jacks.

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 (wicker or plastic baskets are the best). Please wear good, closed toe shoes and warm clothing (preferably long pants), including rain gear (just in case).

Please note that there will be very limited phone service in the forest.

When: Sunday, 23 March 2025 from 9 am to 4 pm

Where: Millionth Acre Recreation Area, Hampton,

NSW 2790.

Cost: Members \$15.00/adult. Non-members \$20.00/adult and \$10.00/child (under 12) to cover the cost of lunch.

RSVP: Bookings are essential. Please contact Daniel Frutiger by email or call 0403 502 048 by Tuesday, 18 March 2025. Make sure to book early to avoid disappointment.



Buure Z'morge at Mosman

Enjoy a delicious and authentic Buure Z'morge (Swiss Farmers Breakfast) with a selection of traditional Swiss cheeses, rohschinken, doublesmoked ham, aufschnitt, bresaola, quiche Lorraine, birchermuesli, yoghurt, fruit platter, honey, jam, and a variety of breads.

All-day parking is available on the The Crescent along Allan Border Oval. If you would like to sit at a particular table with friends and family, please inform us when making your booking.

When: Sunday, 25 May 2025, 9.15 am to 12 noon

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

Cost: Members \$30/adult. Non-members \$35/adult and \$15/child (under 12). Either cash on the day (correct amount is appreciated) or direct deposit to:

Account Name: Swiss Club NSW

BSB: 112-879

Account Number: 06158 7992

RSVP: Bookings are essential; limited numbers available, please book early.
Please contact Daniel Frutiger on 0403 502 048 or email before Monday, 19 May 2025 to confirm your attendance and payment.

Upcoming Swiss Club Events

100 YEARS SWISS CLUB OF NSV

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

This special celebration will take place on Thursday, 5th February 2026 in the Stranger Room of Parliament House, 6 Macquarie Street, Sydney.

> Arrival: 11:30 am for a 12:00 pm start. Enjoy an afternoon with refreshments and finger food throughout the event.

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

Bookings for this event are now open – please contact our Club President, Daniel Frutiger on mobile 0403502048, or by email dan.maro4@bigpond.com. We expect a full house and encourage you to book early to avoid disappointment.

We look forward to commemorating this historic occasion with you!





Oceania Swiss Club Presidents' Conference



The Swiss Alliance Australia (SAA) was delighted to host the biennial Oceania Swiss Club Presidents' Conference 2024 in November, bringing together Swiss community leaders and friends from across the Oceania region for three dynamic days in Sydney. The program was filled with networking opportunities, engaging discussions, informative presentations, and a workshop exploring the conference theme: "Revitalising Tradition, Embracing Change: The Future of Swiss Clubs."

Participants included representatives from New Zealand, Australia, and Thailand – including Swiss Club Presidents, members of the Council of the Swiss Abroad, and representatives from the Embassies of Australia and New Zealand, as well as the Consulate General in Sydney.

The conference began at the Swissôtel with the Annual General Meeting (AGM) for members of the SAA, the umbrella organisation for Swiss associations in Australia. During the meeting, James Schmidli from the Swiss Society of Queensland was elected as the new president of the SAA committee, succeeding Claude Staub from the Swiss Club of Victoria.



The AGM was followed by a reception hosted by Consul General Elisabeth Bösch Malinen at her residence, where attendees enjoyed drinks, light refreshments, and conversations outdoors on a warm evening. Thanks to a meeting of the Consular Corps in Sydney on Friday, the reception was attended not only by conference participants but also by Honorary Consuls from across Australia. It was

wonderful to see such a diverse mix of people with a Swiss connection coming together.

On Saturday, attendees gathered at the Swissôtel. The morning sessions included presentations from Alister Henskens SC MP, Member for Wahroonga, Shadow Attorney General, Nikolas Stürchler, Swiss Ambassador to Australia, Viktor Vavricka, Swiss Ambassador to New Zealand, Elisabeth Bösch Malinen, Consul General of Switzerland in Sydney, Laurent Perriard, Deputy Director of the Consular Directorate of the Department of Foreign Affairs, via video from Berne, Carmen Trochsler, Member Executive Board of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad, Claudia Birrer, Committee member of the Youth Parliament of the Swiss Abroad, and Roland Isler, OSA Delegate and Swiss Review Editor Regional News Oceania.



The afternoon workshop addressed crucial topics on the future of Swiss Clubs, from staying relevant across generations to maintaining the balance between tradition and innovation. The case studies, presented by Club presidents Jessica Gysin-Webster (SA), Daniel Frutiger (NSW), Philippe Coquerand (QLD), Barbara Kundig (VIC) and Birgit Bacher Drower & Adrian Blaser (Auckland, NZ) provided practical insights that enriched the conversations.

The full report and more images can be found on the SAA website.



Council of the Swiss Abroad

Election of Australian delegates to the Council of the Swiss Abroad 2025 - 2029

The CSA consists of a network of 140 delegates, 20 from within Switzerland and 120 from abroad. It is a key institution for the Swiss diaspora, playing a crucial role in connecting Switzerland and its citizens around the world, and in advocating for your interests, rights, and welfare.

The CSA's work extends beyond political advocacy to issues such as ensuring that the Swiss Abroad are supported by providing relevant information and advice, fostering a connected Swiss community, or in times of emergency. Its lobbying efforts aim to elevate the voice of the diaspora within Swiss federal politics, ensuring that your concerns are addressed and contributions recognised.

As a Swiss residing in Australia, Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands or Vanuatu, you are part of a global community that the members of CSA work tirelessly to connect and defend. It's through the Council's efforts that the unique challenges and opportunities facing Swiss expatriates are brought to the forefront of the Swiss national discourse. The CSA's commitment to your representation and welfare exemplifies the strength and unity of the Swiss community across borders and strengthens the bond between Switzerland and its citizens abroad.

The CSA's dedication to increasing political participation among the Swiss Abroad is demonstrated through its advocacy for the introduction of e-voting. Initiatives such as the direct democratic election of its delegates further underscores its commitment to inclusiveness and representation.

Election of delegates (and deputy) representing Australia, Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu

Based on the number of registered Swiss living in our region – about 26,600 – Australia (includes Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu) holds four seats on the Council. Delegates are elected for a term of four years; the current term will expire in August 2025.

The four candidates receiving the highest number of votes will be elected as full members of the CSA. Provided the mandate is accepted, the candidate with the fifth highest number of votes will be elected deputy.

If the mandate is refused, it shall go to the candidate next in line. The deputy has full voting rights at Council meetings when deputising for a CSA delegate. The deputy is also encouraged to cooperate in CSA tasks as required. Should a seat become vacant mid-term, the deputy can assume the position of elected delegate for the remainder of the term.

Direct election via e-voting

The election next year will be carried out entirely by electronic means (e-voting), using a Swiss e-voting system. This will ensure that every eligible Swiss citizen will have the possibility to choose their representatives.

More information about the UniVote e-voting system can be found here.

The election will be conducted by the Swiss Alliance Australia Inc (SAA) on behalf of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA), with the assistance of the Swiss Federal Government and the Consulate General of Switzerland in Sydney. The election coordinator is Claude Alain Staub, member of the SAA committee.

Election timeline 2025 (may be subject to change)

- 15 February Application deadline for candidates.
- 30 March Email sent by FDFA to all voters. Important information for the upcoming election.
- 11 April All eligible candidates standing for election will be announced in the 2/25 (April) issue of the 'Swiss Review', as well as on this website and social media.
- 12 April Email with voting instructions sent by FDFA to voters. Online ballot box opens.
- 11 May Online ballot box closes.
- 19 May
 Election results submitted by BFH (Berner Fachhochschule)
 to OSA.
- 23 May Communication of results by OSA.
- 21 August Constitutive meeting of the newly elected Council.



Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA)

The Swiss Yodlers of Sydney

Grüetzi Mitenand,

After a successful 2024, the Swiss Yodlers of Sydney finished up the year with our AGM (Annual General Meeting) on 24th November at the Willoughby Hotel, Willoughby, NSW. We started off the evening with a wonderful dinner, then began our meeting with singing the song "Berg-Arve". It was great to see one of our honourary members Rösli Kaufmann join us, to catch up with her old mates, and to meet our newer members. Our current committee of Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer will continue through 2025. Our conductor Josephine Brereton who's been guiding our voices since March last year, will also continue to teach us and enhance our sound.

Our Yodlers will look into new opportunities in social media to tweak our current website, to better advertise our choir, and to bring in new members who wish to sing with us. We were excited last year, when two members joined our choir in October 2024, including our youngest member, Michael Kessar, who is 20 years old! This has brought down the average age significantly. We hope to have another new member join us this coming winter 2025. We ended the evening with an appropriate song "Kamerade".

At the end of November, we received contact from another yodler, Stefan Nauer of the Chörli Zollikofen near Bern, Switzerland, who was interested in meeting our choir. He was travelling extensively throughout Australia with his wife Anita, and had very limited

time in Sydney to meet us. The night before they flew off to Alice Springs, our former President Alois Kretz and his wife Bronwen, invited Stefan and Anita over to dinner. We learned Stefan not only sings with the Chorli Zollikofen, but is also conductor of the Jodlerchor Chutzejodler in Gerzensee. It was incredible to hear him sing solo some of the traditional songs he sings. His wife even joined in on one song she sang as a child. Both of them had stellar voices. We plan to keep in touch with them, and hope to meet up again in Switzerland for the 2026 Eidgenössische Jodlerfest in Basel! Biggest thanks to Alois and Bronwen for arranging this dinner so quickly.

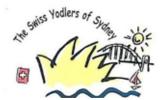
2025 hopes to bring bigger, better, and brighter things for the Swiss Yodlers of Sydney. We are dusting off our vocal chords for our first weekly practice for the summer, on 10th February 2025 in Chatswood. Ja wohl! We hope to see you around the Sydney area this year.

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

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Kind regards, Daniel Hofmann

President





Do you remember? Where you there?

In 1985, 40 years ago already, an important local Swiss-Australian organisation was incorporated. 5 years later, in May 1990, this photo was taken in Edgecliff/Sydney.

Stay tuned for further details – or have a look at www.swisscham.com.au



From the Desk of Anne Held

PASSAGES FOUND BETWEEN BONDI AND TAMARAMA BEACHES



Sculptures by the Sea – it must be one of the largest free outdoor art exhibitions in the world and every year (with some gaps during the recent pandemic) draws artists from all over the globe to Sydney, to the coastline between Bondi Beach and Tamara to be exact. For 2024, registration included some 100 artists from different countries like Argentina, Brazil, China, Taiwan, Denmark, France, Austria, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Lithuania, Slovakia, Ukraine, USA, South Africa, joined by mates from Australia and New Zealand of course. Some participants are regular exhibitors, some are quite famous, others experiment with the attractive environment for the first time. There are prizes to be won, and a catalogue is usually available.

Somewhere I had read that there was an exhibit by a Swiss sculptor – so I went to Bondi on a sunny morning in November 2024 and started the 2km walk through the park filled with the most diverse exhibits. I went past a shark's head looking out of a fibreglass banana, called 'Sharnana'; it won the Allens People Choice Award and the Kids Choice Prize. There was an oversize hot red pepper, an astronaut, a giant gorilla very casually displaying his bronze 'crown jewels', a hut made of discarded yellow safety helmets, sculptures made of any imaginable material, including recycled garbage, some just breath-taking beautiful.

I sat down in a nice wheelbarrow, the wide Pacific Ocean out there inviting me to a short meditation on all this talent, inspirations, symbolism, cheekiness and expertise. But suddenly, I was not quite sure, was this a place to have a rest, or was it part of the exhibition? A small sign with a number and a logo confirmed that it was really an official exhibit (but very useful!).

Finally, I found it up in Mark's Park – 'Passages' by Urs-P. Twellmann, standing proudly out on a prominent spot and waving at me. The powerful and impressive wood sculpture was crafted by chain saw from a New England Manna gum trunk on a farm in Walcha NSW, home to his Australian colleague Stephen King (also a regular participant at Sculpture by the Sea and previous winner). The various parts of 'Passages' form a kind of a twisted circle, with a welcoming arch inviting the visitors to step inside and touch the solid wood, its scars, its cuts from the chain saw, maybe look for local insects? The various branches had been sawed down the middle, with one side flat, and the other side showing the natural rounded shape of the original tree, the highest parts over 3m high. You felt encouraged to let your imagination take you to the roots and provenance of the gum tree in Stephen King's paddock. And then you had to find a way out of the circle, through different open exit gates, back on the track.

So now, we had to look up on who is this Urs Peter Twellmann? His website informed me (to my delight) that he was 'a Bärner' (Bernese) born in Langnau in the Emmental (like my mother by the way, but she was not



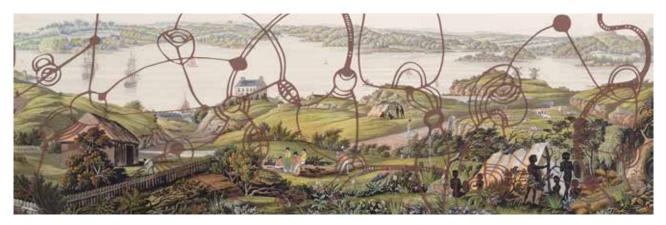
a sculptor), and now living and working in Schlosswil, canton of Berne. He has been working as a freelance sculptor for over 40 years, wood being his speciality, and his amazing sculptures have been shown in many European countries, as well as in Canada, Japan, Taiwan And Senegal and previously also in Perth WA. In 2024, it was the first time he participated at Sculpture by the Sea. Some more information found on the internet mentioned that in 2025, Urs-P. Twellmann's work will be shown during a special exhibition at the Swiss Wood Carving Museum in Brienz BE. Brienz is the main woodcarving centre in Switzerland. Unfortunately, several attempts to contact Urs-Peter directly were unsuccessful, but the latest I heard was that his 'Passages' sculpture was kept in the Sydney store yard of Sculpture by the Sea. In the exhibition catalogue, it was listed 'for sale'.

A few days after my promenade, I also found out that a Swiss-Austrian artist called Nives Widauer, born in Basel and studied at the Basel Academy of Art and Design, now living in Vienna, Austria, had also an exhibit. Actually I had noticed a lovely and intriguing bronze work during my walk, called 'Mirror, Me', a bronze cast of 2 Super 8 cameras on top of 3 slender supports and facing each other, like they were talking together. The original cameras had belonged to Nives' father. Nives work was listed 'Not for sale' in the catalogue.

No doubt many of our readers will be among the thousands of visitors to the next Sculpture by the Sea from 17th October to 3rd November 2025. QR or small plaques give information on the name and the country of the artist.

It is always exciting to discover a work by a compatriot. – heldanne@yahoo.com. Photos by Anne Held.

Exhibition Seeing Sydney, Knowing Country



Seeing Sydney, Knowing Country, an exhibition by Museums of History NSW, examines the development of the NSW colony through picturesque colonial landscape prints from the collection of Beat Knoblauch alongside significant historical maps, plans, sketches, artworks and objects – including the first land grant issued in the colony.

When British colonists arrived in Australia in the late 18th century they surveyed and mapped a land that was foreign to them, carving it up into a patchwork of Crown land and private property. Governor Arthur Phillip drew the first boundary: a circle traced in the sand around his arrival party at Manly Cove in January 1788. This communicated to the Gayamagal people who had gathered there that they should not enter. Phillip's act signalled the start of the dispossession of First Nations peoples and their displacement from the land they had been custodians of for 60,000 years.

An artistic intervention, led by designer Alison Page, layers First Nations knowledge of Country over the colonial records, offering a deeper understanding of the landscapes we encounter in Sydney today, from the other side of that circle in the sand.

Seeing Sydney, Knowing Country was developed in collaboration with First Nations designer Alison Page and the Sydney Coastal Aboriginal Women's Group.

Date: Opens Thursday 17 April

Location: Museum of Sydney, corner Phillip and Bridge streets, Sydney NSW 2000 Link: https://mhnsw.au/whats-on/exhibitions/seeing-sydney-knowing-country

Swiss Club Members Corner

Welcome to our new members

Anita Vague Gutknecht and Gavin Vague

Thank you for signing up with the Swiss Club.

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





Congratulations to

Markus Wettstein Ursula Zahn

who are celebrating their 80th birthday.

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

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Board of Director position



Looking for Volunteers!

The Swiss Club of NSW is seeking volunteers who would like to join our Board of Directors and make a meaningful difference to the Swiss community of NSW.

Please consider joining our friendly team and ensure the future of the Club.

For enquiries please email us.

Letter to the Swiss Abroad

At the recent 100th Congress of the Swiss Abroad in Lucerne (12/7/24) we were informed of changes to the frequency of such Congresses which are forced upon us in view of dwindling finances. It may result in the Congresses being staged only every few years or it's format may undergo changes. Clearly, a much curtailed event will replace the customary and much acclaimed yearly gathering of the Swiss Abroad. It is noted that the number of participants to the annual Congress has also been decreasing.

Interestingly, while the number of the Swiss abroad is rapidly increasing, some 813'000 by latest count, the federal finances allocated to the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad have hardly changed, or in real terms are diminishing. This also affects the number of printed issues of the Swiss Review from 6 to 5 in the coming year (6 electronic issues remain).

For the Swiss Abroad the above scenario is a wakeup call, and I see the following issues to be debated for the sake of our future:

The Swiss Abroad have to become collectively more active to voice their concern and to achieve adequate financial capacity to make themselves heard and to take action. This may involve finding new resources, including funding for own projects. The solution may well require more self-sufficiency.

A review to the legal form of our organisation: currently the Council of the Swiss Abroad has commissioned a study on the legal structure as it exist today and for possible changes. To me it is apparent that the legal format of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad as a private Foundation (according to Swiss Foundation Law) is outdated and does not attract financing for support of the 800K+ Swiss Abroad: the Swiss Abroad as a collective should be part of a Swiss Federal Department as a public institution and be part of the Federal Budget.

Similarly, the elected Council of the Swiss Abroad is being checked for its status.

A direct representation of the Swiss Abroad in the Swiss Federal Parliament remains a valid option and is being aired and discussed in Council sessions. It is also noted that the larger Swiss Political Parties take an increasing interest in the Swiss Abroad, them being part of their electorate.

I'd like to stress that in most our views the Swiss Diplomatic and Consular Services as extended by the DFA are exemplary and are highly regarded and efficient.

The elected Council of the Swiss Abroad functions well, new elections are due in 2025, Australia has 4 delegates to be elected, this time again by electronic voting. Some 26'000 registered Swiss with the Consulate General in Sydney / Australia will be able to vote. The names / email addresses of those Swiss are only known to the Consul General. Privacy laws prevent that those names /addresses are made available to the Swiss Clubs - who could benefit from those names. Most Swiss Clubs abroad are not a platform for wider debates on subjects such as the rights / duties of the Swiss Abroad. But they remain important to channel information to their members. The Swiss Clubs may well have to broaden their scope of activities to include matters their members are concerned with.

These are some thoughts going through my mind having attended the 100th Congress of the Swiss Abroad in Lucerne on July 12, 2024.

Beat Knoblauch CSA Delegate





Swiss Community Care Society

Recently I had a phone call from a Swiss gentleman who I hadn't met before. I don't remember what his question to me was, but when it was solved, he started to discuss something else, and I promised him, that I would write a few words about the topic in one of my future little articles in this magazine.

If you are a baby boomer or younger person, it most likely does not concern you. However, I recommend that people born during or before the war take note.

There are quite a number of you who refuse to acquire and use a mobile phone. I agree, that new technologies may be frightening. I well remember the time more than 20 years ago, when I had to force myself to start writing emails, rather than letters on paper, and later to permanently leave my mobile phone on, so that our kids could reach me. As it is now, I see all the advantages this little gadget brings us.

With a mobile phone in your handbag or safe pocket you can always reach someone, be it just for a friendly chat or if you are in a difficult situation and in need of help. A smart phone allows you to also write and receive written messages, and you can do dozens of other interesting things with it. No wonder, most younger people are in danger of becoming a slave to it. But it doesn't need to be like that.

There are special mobile phones for the elderly. They have large buttons to press and work similarly to a landline phone. Their main feature is that you can ring somebody and receive calls when away from home or when our landline is out of work, due to an electrical outage. Your son, daughter, a younger relative or friend would surely be happy to help you with the purchase and set-up of such a device. (I also belong to those who often need help from husband or daughter with things computer or phone). Once the set-up of your mobile phone is done, you might find handling it is not as difficult as you imagined, and you might start to like the fact that you are now more accessible by those you love and others and that you can contact them from anywhere.

Please think about it!

R. Scheidegger, President





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



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



List of Rural Coordinators

Newcastle/Hunter Valley	Rita Schaad	02 4956 2272	ritama.schaad@gmail.com
Gosford/Central Coast	Hans Lang	0425 206 534	hanslang57@hotmail.com
	Peter Meury	02 4388 4809	petermeury@bigpond.com
Armidale:	Heinz Hauptli	0417 446 542	heinz.hauptli@bigpond.com
Coonabarabran	Herbert Würsch	02 6842 8278	
Wagga Wagga	Elisabeth Rorrison	0488 909 031	jrer@ozemail.com.au
	John Rorrison	0409 319 090	jrer@ozemail.com.au
Yass & ACT	Bernadette Hunkeler	0493 299 768	realbhunkeler@gmail.com
Cobar	Werner Muehlethaler	02 6836 2091	werner.muhlethaler@bigpond.com
Bathurst	Johann & Ruth Geissmann	02 6337 4103	geissmann@protonmail.com
Orange	Monika Rickli	0419 435 917	monika.rickli@hotmail.com
Blue Mountains	Elizabeth Bizzini	0408 414 863	bizzini1@hotmail.com
Ballina	Hans Schaffner	0448 308 146	hschaffner@bigpond.com
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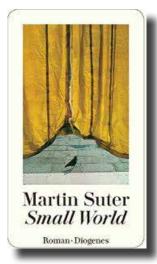
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The Reading Group



A new author and a new book for the reading group

On 21st February, 2025, we will start reading "Small World" by Martin Suter. Despite its English title, this novel is set in contemporary Switzerland and written in German. Martin Suter, born in Zurich in 1948, is one of the most widely read Swiss-German authors today. In addition to an increasing number of novels, he

writes regular newspaper columns about the world of business.

"Small World" deals with a serious problem: a man in his sixties experiencing the onset of Alzheimer's

disease. But the more unreliable his short term memory becomes, the more he remembers events from his early life his closest family members want to keep secret. Thus the novel brings elements of a detective story to the discussion of the real problems of an ageing society.

Our group meets at 10 am on the third Friday of each month, at the Concordia German Club, Mackay Park, Tempe. We generally read for a couple of hours, with a break for morning tea, before having lunch in the restaurant, where we join members of the Swiss Community Care Society having their monthly casual lunch. You do not need to have your own copy of the book, as we have several to pass around. While the book is written in "Schriftdeutsch" (Standard German), we discuss it in Schwytzerdütsch and/or English, depending on the speaker's preference.

We welcome new members!

Please contact Elisabeth Roth on 96691749 or Bettina Boss on 0466979460 for more information.

Advertising Rates 2025

Please support our Swiss Community News (SCN) Magazine by advertising with the Swiss Club of NSW (SCNSW).

Please send artwork (minimum of 300dpi with crop marks and 3mm of internal and external bleed) by the SCN deadlines, which are listed on page 1 of each SCN Magazine. Three issues in colour print are available:

FULL PAGE: 210mm x 298mm - \$790, HALF PAGE: 210mm x 148mm - \$620

1/4 PAGE: 105 mm x 148mm - \$370, 1/6 PAGE: 70mm x 90mm - \$215, 1/8 PAGE: 35mm x 50mm - \$175

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

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

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Vale Maria Jones-Benz



Maria was born on 4th of September 1930 as the second oldest child of Josef and Marta Benz – she grew up with two sisters, Marta and Silvia and three brothers named Willy, Theodore and Charles. Their mother, who had Italian background,

suffered from polio as a young girl and had to walk with the help of metal braces and their father worked hard to support his wife and six children.

Maria often talked about how her mother would send the young children to the bakery with a little backpack in which she had placed money and a note to let the baker know what was needed at home. On one occasion Marta and Maria had to look after young Charles in the pram and while the girls were distracted, the pram with the baby rolled away. Luckily a passerby saved Charles from an unwanted bath in the local stream.

After completing secondary school and working as a domestic helper in the French part of Switzerland, Maria joined her sister Marta in the Ticino (the Italian part of Switzerland), where they worked in a small guesthouse. A little later their brother Charles joined them to work in the kitchen and train as a chef; this meant that the three siblings were working for the same boss. Who was to know that the three of them would end up living on different continents, Charles in Asia (Bangkok and Singapore), Marta in Vancouver, Canada and Maria in Sydney, Australia?

When the guesthouse in the Ticino closed Maria started working at the local hospital, trained as a laboratory technician and worked there for many years.

Maria met her future husband Eric through her younger brother Teddy who one day came home from school saying: "I have a new friend, and he is from Australia". Eric was one of a group of Australian prisoners of war who after being stationed in Northern Italy had come across the alps to Switzerland. Maria's family invited Eric to their home for a meal; subsequently he started corresponding with Teddy. But in fact, it was Maria who translated the letters from English to German and replied on her brother's behalf.

After a while Eric decided to write to Maria directly and that is how their friendship started. Eric visited Maria a few times in Switzerland and then it was Maria's turn to come to Australia.

After a few more years Maria and Eric got married. Their wedding took place in Vancouver, where Maria's sister Marta had moved and started a family.

On the 14th of November 1976 Maria and Eric arrived in Sydney, where they intended to live. Sadly, only a few months later Eric fell ill and passed away in April 1977. Although she had only lived in Australia for a short period of time, Maria decided to stay in this country. She found work in the administration of the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Sydney. She made lifelong friends, including Gisela, who became her companion on many travels through Europe.

A former friend of Eric's, Allan Cameron, also became a dear friend to Maria, accompanying her on many holidays and outings. Living in her house in Harslett Crescent, Beverley Park, for 48 years, Maria got to know all her neighbours who liked her kind-hearted and helpful ways. In Maria's later years, some of the neighbours in turn helped her when needed.

Maria's 80th birthday was celebrated at the RSL club in Kogarah amongst her friends, including some surprise visitors from Switzerland. As her 90th birthday occurred during the COVID pandemic, a celebration in a public place was out of the question. Nevertheless, her dear friends Eudard and Erika Affolter managed to organise a private party in Maria's own backyard.

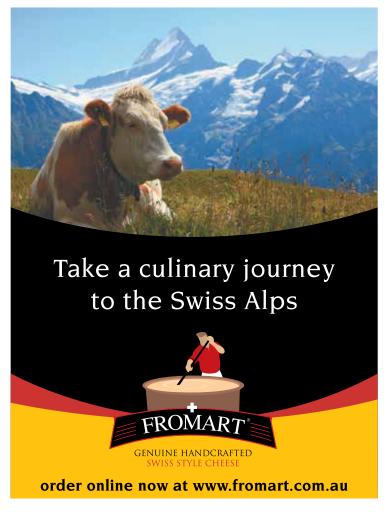
Despite her 48 years in Australia, Maria maintained a very strong connection to her homeland and always welcomed visits from family members and friends from Switzerland. She always attended the Swiss National Day celebrations and the Christmas party hosted by the Swiss community groups; in later years she joined a reading group who met once a month to read books by Swiss authors together.

Maria was admitted to St George Hospital on the 13th October with pneumonia and never recovered from it completely. That is where she passed away peacefully on 1st of December, the first Sunday of Advent. She will be sadly missed by all of us.

By Erika Affolter and Bettina Boss January 2025







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Notariat Stuber-Jordi

Thunstrasse 72, Postfach 347

CH-3074 Muri bei Bern, Switzerland

T: +41 31 950 21 2, F: +41 31 920 21 22

E: kanzlei@bernernotariat.ch, W: bernernotariat.ch

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Contact Barbara Koeppel

M: 0401 361 998

E: definiteversion@bigpond.com,

W: definiteversion.com.au



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

COMMITTEE

Swiss Club of NSW Ltd PO Box 3292 Bangor NSW 2234 E: info@swissclubnsw.com W: swissclubnsw.com W: facebook.com/swissclubnsw W: twitter.com/swissclubnsw

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W: instagram.com/swissclubnsw

Daniel Frutiger, President

M: 0403 502 048

E: dan.mar04@bigpond.com

Gabi Muff, Vice President E: dgmuff@tpg.com.au

Beat Ruegg, Treasurer M: 0412 126 621 E: bruegg@iinet.net.au

Ivan Baumgartner, Secretary

E: ivan_baumg@hotmail.com

Nicola Enz Quealy,

Membership Secretary M: 0420 923 047 E: nenz@bluewin.ch

Alois Simath, Functions

E: asimath@bigpond.com

Peter Pluess, Club Advisory T: 0419 531 894

E: peterpluess@frachtsyd.com.au

Martin Frutiger, Webmaster E: info@swissclubnsw.com

Barbara Koeppel, Editor

Swiss Community News

E: swisscommunitynews@gmail.com

Patrick Wille

Honorary Solicitor T: (02) 9223 9399

E: pwille@schweizer.com.au

GROUPS

Swiss Community Care Society

P.O. Box 320, St Ives NSW 2075

Regula Scheidegger, President

M: 0432 031 085

Miriam Oetiker, Secretary E: sccsmiriam@gmail.com

Beat Birchmeier,

Functions Coordinator M: 0414 969 776 E: sccsbeat@gmail.com

W: swissccs.org.au

Auslandschweizer Organisation Beat Knoblauch, ASO Delegate

M: 0419 012 245 F: beatek@ozemail

E: beatek@ozemail.com.au W:SwissCommunity.org

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Swiss Dance Group Alpegruess Marco Nussbaumer, President

T: (02) 9560 0666

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E: info@swissentrepreneurs.com.au

Swiss Yodlers of Sydney Daniel Hofmann, President

E: sparkshow@gmail.com W: swissyodlersofsydney.org

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Consulate General of Switzerland

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

Application Form - Swiss Club of NSW



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