

REGIONAL EDITION

OCEANIA

Next Submission Date:
30 April 2018



ROLAND ISLER
REGIONAL EDITOR | OCEANIA
COUNCIL OF THE SWISS ABROAD | AUSTRALIA

Editorial:

Dear friends and readers.

On Saturday, 10 March the Council of the Swiss Abroad met in Bern. Oceania was well represented with three delegates attending. Important topics were on the agenda, such as the current state of e-voting, the continued search for a solution to the banking problem and the automatic exchange of financial information.

Prior to this, delegates met with parliamentarians from all political parties at the Federal Palace to discuss important issues concerning the Swiss Abroad. A report of the meetings can be found on the CSA-Oceania website www.csa-oceania.org

Please take note of the following «Regional Edition Oceania» dates for the remaining issues for this year:

| Issue | Editorial deadline | Publishing/mailout date |
|----------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| ■ 3/2018 | Mon, 30 April | Mon, 28 May |
| ■ 5/2018 | Mon, 3 September | Sat, 29 September |

Please send your contributions by the above deadlines to risler@csa-oceania.org. I look forward to hearing from you!

Joe Felber – making a statement through art



Joe Felber was born in 1951 in Sursee and now lives in Adelaide. He studied architecture in Lucerne and practiced for several years as a draftsman in different locations and offices mainly in Switzerland. In 1980 he migrated to Australia and settled in Sydney. In 1989 Joe returned to Zurich and worked and exhibited mainly in Germany (Cologne, Frankfurt and Hamburg) and since 1991 in New York with Lennon Weinberg Inc. A year later he moved to Cologne where he lived for 5 years before returning to Australia. He completed his Master of Art (by Research) Dept. Sculpture at Melbourne RMIT in 2000.

Joe has exhibited on three continents in individual and group exhibitions since 1975. His work has been collected in many galleries, such as the Art Gallery of NSW, Museum of Contemporary Art Sydney and the National Gallery of Victoria, as well as many private and public institutions in Europe and America. As part of the 700-year anniversary of the Swiss Confederation, Joe took part in 'Swiss Artists in Australia 1777-1991' with his work being exhibited alongside those of other great artists that have made a name for themselves in Australia – Webber, Liardet, Buvelot, Chevalier, Herman and Haefliger.

Through his engaging contemporary art, ranging from drawings, paintings, portraits, posters and installations, to photography and video/audio, Joe expresses himself not only artistically but also politically and socially.

<http://www.joefelber.com>



Le Corbusier, Entrance of Villa La Roche, Paris.
Oil on plywood, 35 x 35cm



Paul Keating 2. Acrylic on marine plywood, 60 x 60cm



Refugee. Oil on plywood, 48 x 38cm



Reflexorama fries. Variety of media, 122 x 720cm

Community News and Events

PNG: Bridge builder in Papua New Guinea

For the last three decades Swiss Mission voluntarily maintained the three kilometre bush road from the district road, including the bridge to our Orobiga base. Recently the National Okuk Highway was closed for 16 days because of a collapsed bridge near Goroka. Within hours our bypass bush road became a busy alternative route for the Highway traffic. Even trucks with single containers would use it, hardly able to cross each other. Locals charged most of the drivers with a fee from 2 Kina up to 200! They called us 'Papa bilong rot' (Daddies of the road) and didn't charge us. The Highway is open again, we will continue with our volunteer service, fixing the road and bridge!



NZ: Taranaki Swiss Club

In early February our club hosted the Trachtengruppe Baar for four days on their tour of New Zealand. Together with Irish, Scottish and Maori groups they gave a concert to savour in Hawera. The Trachtengruppe also sang lovely duets, had two great alphorn players, two flag throwers and a terrific music band. They attended our picnic which was held on February 11 in, unfortunately, wet conditions. However, taking advantage



of a moment of sunshine, the group gave a lovely performance of their talents outside. Sadly the schwingen couldn't be held due to the weather and everyone was crammed in our hall. It created a great atmosphere, even if we were a little squished!!! Face painting, pony rides and the fishing were enjoyed by our younger attendees, while the adults were happy to enjoy a chat, some fine food and beverages. On behalf of the committee we wish to thank all those who kindly helped on the day, and especially everyone who came along to the picnic to catch up with friends and make new acquaintances. A day to remember, but we do hope for a fine picnic next year!!! To be honest, I can't remember having to cancel the schwingen, so we have had many fine picnic days!!!

Upcoming Events:

15 & 19/4: Keglen from 7.30pm. Come along and enjoy great company, a bit of 'Swiss' sports, and a delicious supper.

8 & 15/4: Jassen recommences at 1.15pm for the next few months. Enjoy a few games of cards, a nice afternoon tea and then a few more rounds of cards.

15/4: The Society/Championship shoots can be shot today too from 1pm. Please bring along your children too, as there is a separate junior section in the Society Shoot.

3 & 17/5: Keglen again at the Club house. Come and join this fun-loving group!!!

4 & 5/5: A bus is being organised to attend the Swiss Market in Auckland. Join in!!!

12/5: Our fabulous Fondue Evening (including sausages and a salad bar). The meal will be served from 6 to 8pm with entertainment to follow.

20/5: The Swiss Society competitions (shooting, shot put, keglen and jassen) will be held today. Juniors will be in a separate competition, so make this a family outing!!! The competitions commence at 11am. Please bring your own lunch. The Championship Shoot commences at 1pm.

27/5: Jassen again from 1.15pm. Come and have some fun!!!

2-4/6: The Taranaki Swiss Club will be hosting the AGM of the Swiss Society of New Zealand together with the final of the Cowbell Competition. Please contact your Club secretaries, read the Helvetia magazine or ring Marianne on 06 762 8757 or Othmar on 06 278 6878 for further information. A great occasion to meet fellow Kiwi-Swiss and enjoy some Taranaki hospitality!!!

NZ: Hamilton Swiss Club

Our club also hosted the Swiss Folk Group from Baar-Zug on February 6 and 7. The first night was a pot luck dinner at the Matangi Hall and the second night the group performed in front of about 200 people at the Hamilton Cosmopolitan Club. Many thanks to all 12 host families for hosting our 32 guests. I believe this was a great experience for everyone and the group's performance was first class and enjoyed by Swiss and Kiwis alike.



On Sunday, February 25 we held our annual picnic on a beautiful summer's day. We had a very big crowd attend and many participated in bowling and shot-put before enjoying some delicious grilled sausages together with an amazing selection of home-made baking provided by the committee and some other volunteers. The previous day the 50 metre medal and trophy shooting competition was held at Elmiger's property in Karapiro with a turnout of about twenty.

ACT: Canberra Swiss Club

The Canberra Swiss Club choir, called 'Crèmeschnitte Chörli', is small but very enthusiastic. The songs come from the hearts. Geoff Roberts guides and conducts the choir with passion every second and last Tuesday of the months. The German Harmonie Club in Narrabundah generously provides

the venue to practice. Especially for the choir, the German Club acquired recently a piano. How fantastic! The choir is supported by the pianist Sarah Selvaratnam and the guitarist David Hall. All the coordination work is done by Regula Neilson (r.neilson@netspeed.com.au). With several concerts, the choir has a busy program for 2018. Concerts in retirement villages are always rewarding for both, listeners and singers. The choir is very privileged: Soprano Louise Page OAM, one of Australia's most highly regarded and versatile singers, performing in opera, operetta and in a variety of other areas, throughout Australia and Europe, lives in Canberra. We had the pleasure of having Louise Page several evenings teaching us during rehearsals. It is with delight and pride the choir soaks in the professional advice given by Louise. It is always a great experience and also a lot of fun.

Not having a venue of our own, the Club is also privileged to have the support from the Austrian and the German Club. Both generously let us use their facilities.

The Canberra Swiss Club maintains many traditions, not only by singing traditional Swiss songs, but by many other activities. Jass evenings are always pleasant and interesting. Every second Wednesday a small group comes together to play. Everybody is welcome to join in. It can be an experienced player or someone who would like to learn the game. Lina Shlager is currently the friendly host and Gaby Hoffmann does the coordination work (hoffmann.gaby@gmail.com). Thanks to Heinz Büttikofer our website provides information about the Club. Upcoming events such the family day, bushwalk, Fondue Night, National Day Celebration, Film Evenings, Eisstock Fun Tournament, Go Karting and more can be found on <http://www.swiss.org.au/events.php?ID=4> or google Canberra Swiss Club. Let's enjoy the colours of autumn in Canberra and our upcoming events.

NSW: Swiss Yodlers of Sydney

50 years ago a few 'Heiweh Schwizer' and singing friends were sitting around the Stammtisch at the 'Swiss Tavern' in York Street, Sydney and decided to form a yodel club, naming it 'The Swiss Yodlers of Sydney'. So our Birthday is the 14th April 1968! The foundation was laid by Saemi Reusser, Edwin Furrer, Uli Gubler and Urban Gmuer. And Saemi Reusser was also the first President. Since then a lot water has flown down the Parramatta River.

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CSA OCEANIA SWISS CLUB PRESIDENTS' CONFERENCE – SYDNEY 2018

After Canberra in 2014 and Melbourne in 2016, it is now the turn of the Sydney Swiss clubs to host the bi-annual conference of all Swiss Club Presidents in Oceania. This great event is to take place from the **evening of Friday, September 28 to Sunday morning, September 30**, Saturday being reserved for the all-day conference. It will take place at the exquisite compound of the Riverview College (with accommodation facilities) in the Sydney harbour suburb of Lane Cove. Participants from across Oceania are invited and additionally we expect guests from Berne (Dept. of Foreign Affairs and from the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad). Also attending will be the Swiss Ambassadors to Australia and Oceania and the Swiss Consul General in Sydney.

The event will focus on the Swiss diaspora in Oceania, relations with Berne, discussion about the benefits of a Swiss Umbrella Organisation for Oceania, current topics from the 'Berne' perspective, current efforts by the Swiss Abroad Secretariat in Berne, and many more topics.

This conference coincides with the **50th anniversary of the Swiss Yodlers of Sydney**, with whom we shall share a Harbour Cruise Dinner on Friday evening and a Gala Dinner on Saturday night. A Sunday Morning BBQ will conclude this event.

Invitation with full program and booking form will be dispatched in the near future.



Singing, camaraderie and fun have been the strong pillars of the Swiss Yodlers in Sydney. Legendary trips within OZ and Overseas to the Eidg. Jodlerfest in Switzerland with an active participation and sometimes outstanding rankings have a long tradition. But also, our annual picnic or the Swiss National Day Celebration which attracts over 1000 attendees makes the Swiss Yodlers one of the most important social Swiss clubs in NSW and Australia.

The 50th Anniversary of the foundation of the Swiss Yodlers of Sydney will take place over three days on the weekend of **28, 29 and 30 September**, please reserve the date. Saint Ignatius College, Riverview, Tambourine Bay Road, Lane Cove will be an excellent venue for our special celebration, which will coincide with the Oceania Swiss Club Presidents' Conference, organised by the CSA Oceania delegates (see above). Many local Australian Swiss Yodler clubs have already confirmed their attendance, and we would love to see you too!

Limited affordable accommodation is available at the College. For inquiries or more information please visit our website <http://swissyodlersofsydney.org/> or contact us via email on swissyodlerssydney@gmail.com

NSW: Cercle Romand Sydney**Upcoming Event:**

6/6: Fondue Vigneronne, Fagan Park, Galston.

For more informations go to cercleromand.com.au or Facebook @Cercle Romand Sydney or contact us on cercleromand@gmail.com

NSW: Swiss Rösti Clique

Mir sind vo Sydney und suechet Drummler und Pfyffer. Chumm und mach doch mit. Bi eus gits kei Altersgrenze, alli si herzlich willkommen. Mir übe ei Mol im Monet im Centennial Park.

The Swiss Rösti Clique of Sydney is looking for drummers and pipers (piccolo players). All ages welcome. We practise once a month in Centennial Park.

For more information, please contact Armin Umhang on 0431 891 454 or arem@outlook.com or Peter Scheidegger on 0431 062 431 or pscheide@bigpond.net.au

QLD: Swiss Society of Queensland**Upcoming Events:**

22/4: Jass tournament in Brisbane.

6/5: Bushwalk, contact Peter Zuend on 0488 738 371 or bushwalker@swissclubqld.org.au

12/5: Fondue night.

23/5: Movie night.

3/6: Bushwalk.

9/6: Australian Jass Tournament and Metzgete @ Gold Coast.

QLD: The Swiss Yodel and Folklore Group 'Baerg-Roeseli'

We have a new website! Check it out:

<http://www.swissclubqld.org.au/yodel-folklore-group-baerg-roeseli/>

QLD: Fraser Coast Swiss Group**Upcoming Events:**

15th of each month: Meet for lunch in local restaurants.

1/4: Easter Bunny with 'Eiertütsche'.

For details go to <http://www.swissclubqld.org.au/fraser-coast-swiss-group/> or contact Cecile Scherrer on 0409 286 326 or cecile.scherrer@bigpond.com

VIC: The Matterhorn Yodel Choir

Our group meets every second Wednesday evening. We are very happy to welcome new members any time. If you feel like coming along to see if you would perhaps like to join us, please call our conductor Chris 9754 7390 so we can advise you of practice session details.

Upcoming Event:

28/4: Jassabend, Horticulture Centre, Jolimont Road, Forest Hill, 7.30pm. Inquiries: Erwin Weinmann 0400 850 816 or Sepp Goldiger 0425 791 036.

VIC: Swiss Club of Victoria

The 2nd Floor will be closed until April 23 as the club is hosting the Melbourne International Comedy Festival. The Swiss Club Restaurant will still be open during that time.

Upcoming Events:

25/4: Social Jass.

2/5 & 6/6: Ladies Luncheon, Swiss Club 2nd Floor, 12pm.

5/5 & 2/6: SwissKids, 2pm. Swiss children having fun.

26/5: Swiss Club Jass Nigh, 7.30pm.

15/6: Swiss Club Billiard: Bernhard Sandoz Cup, 8pm.

VIC: Swiss Folk Dance Group Alpenrose**Upcoming Event:**

5/5: The group is organising the annual Unterhaltungsabend at the Swiss Club. It is a fun night with entertainment provided by the fabulous Kapelle Grüezi Mitenand. We are busy rehearsing the new dances!

Cost is \$45p.p. including a three course dinner. Bookings can be made at the Swiss Club or ring Sylvia on 9531 6575.

VIC: Trachtengruppe Schwyzerguess A.S.C.C.

We are busy organising events for our Seniors. The Kaffeeklatsch at the Swiss Club is coming up in August, and like every year, we have the very popular mystery trip in November.

During the year we support the Seniors in our community, visit and entertain them in nursing homes together with the Matterhorn, Companion Singers and the Dance group.



CSA Oceania
Organisation of the Swiss Abroad

Go to **www.csa-oceania.org**

- for links to all **Swiss Community Groups**, Swiss Organisations and Swiss Consular Representations in Oceania;
- for **important information** about issues concerning Swiss Abroad;
- for information about the **Organisation of the Swiss Abroad** and the **CSA Oceania** and the services they offer.
- Contact the **CSA Oceania** on info@csa-oceania.org

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