

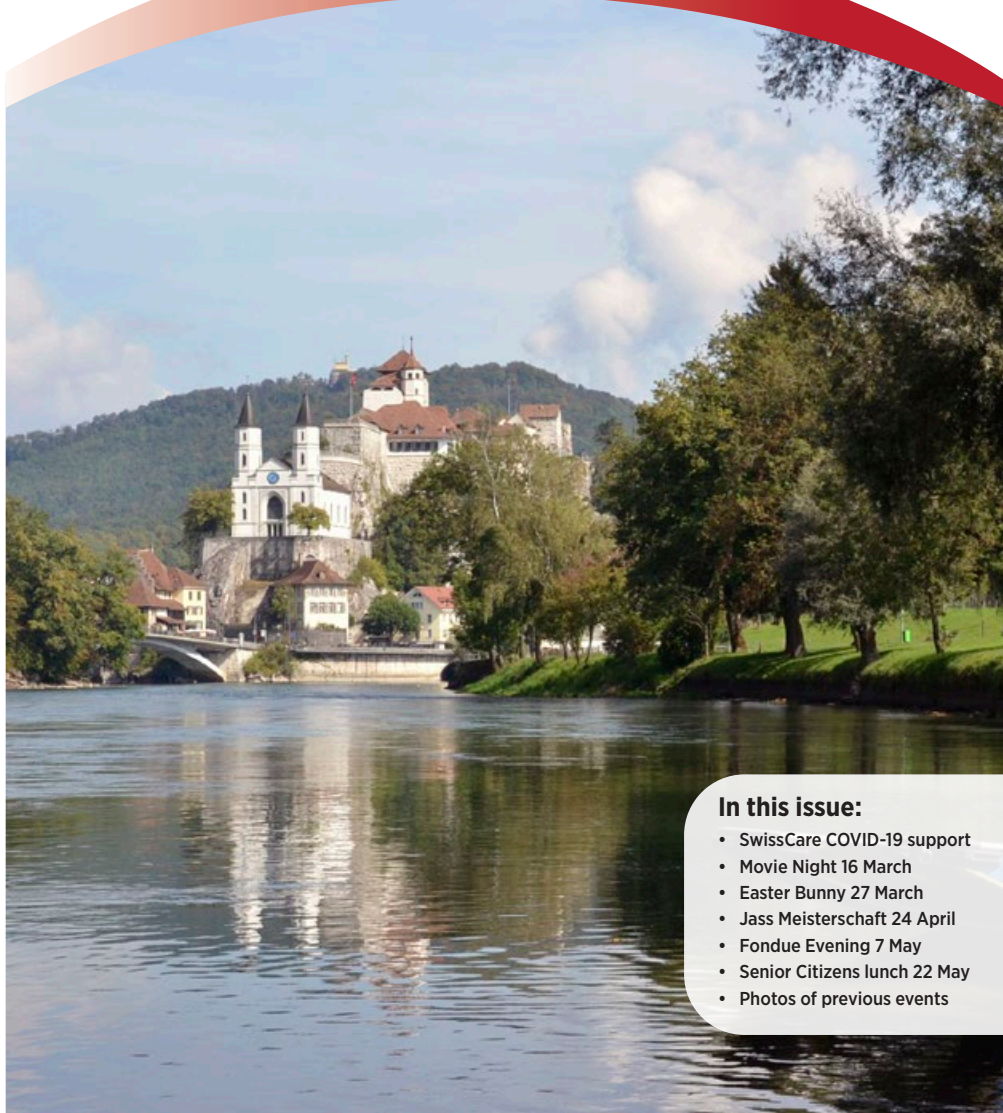


SWISS

news

Society of Queensland Inc

www.swissclubqld.org.au



In this issue:

- SwissCare COVID-19 support
- Movie Night 16 March
- Easter Bunny 27 March
- Jass Meisterschaft 24 April
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- Senior Citizens lunch 22 May
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Our **Annual Brunch at the Anglican Church on Sunday 14 November** was a huge success! More than 60 people attended which was an excellent turn-out with delicious food and great company.

A huge thank you to the committee, volunteers and a special shout out to Jakob for making the delicious dessert and Nicole for organising an exceptional event.

We also received compliments from new members who said they thoroughly enjoyed themselves and will definitely be back at the next brunch.



**THE MISSION OF
THE SWISS SOCIETY**

Preserve and promote
the Swiss heritage and
goodwill
between Australia
and Switzerland
through social and
cultural activities.

DISCLAIMER

Letters published in this
brochure do not neces-
sarily reflect the opinions
of the committee. We
reserve the right to edit
submitted articles in
order to fit them in the
available space.

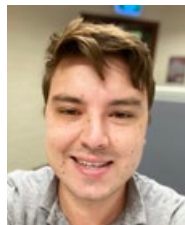
When photos are taken
at events, please advise
the photographer(s) if
you do not wish your
picture to appear in the
Swiss News. Otherwise
we presume you consent
for photos of you/your
children to be published
in the Swiss News.

ABN 79 756 877 680

President's Report

Dear members,

I hope you all had an enjoyable and safe Christmas and have had a great start to the new year! I am sure this year will offer you new opportunities and adventures.



This week I was pleased to hear the news that after two years after the government closed Australia to the world, the international border is set to reopen to those who are fully vaccinated from Monday 21 February. I know a lot of our families will be looking forward to booking their tickets to see their loved ones and vice versa. The last two years have been a challenge, but we are starting to see a light at the end of the tunnel.

As you will notice on page 4, since 1 January 2022 Australia reopened its embassy in Bern after a 30-year break. This also means that young Swiss Nationals will get access to the Australian Work and Holiday program and Australian Nationals will be allowed to enter Switzerland without a visa. This is excellent news and is a step in the right direction for those interested in living in Switzerland and in Australia! Before COVID-19, more than 40,000 Swiss tourists would travel to Australia every year.

Coming up in our calendar, we have our annual boat cruise on the 'Lady Brisbane' taking place on Sunday 27 February, where we will swim and snorkel around the famous Tangalooma Wrecks, Horseshoe Bay or Amity Point. I look forward to seeing some of you there for a great day.

As you will notice in this issue, we have quite a few upcoming events. Please also mark in your calendar our **Raclette evening on 18 June**.

The Committee is also busy planning for our Annual Swiss National Day which will be taking place on Saturday, 30 July. We have already booked the Samford Showgrounds so please keep that weekend free. For the last two years we have had to cancel the event, so we are looking forward to welcoming all members for a day of celebration! More information will be communicated as the event nears.

Please enjoy our first *Swiss News* edition for 2022 with lots of photos from our Samichlaus function held in December as well as our Brunch, Swiss Community Care AGM and photos from the Bush Walking Group who camped for five days in the beautiful Foxbar Falls near Stanthorpe!

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me on **prcoque@gmail.com** or via mobile on **0407 677 828**.

If you ever need assistance and have a Facebook page, you can join the Swiss Care QLD COVID-19 Community Support Group, via the link **<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2242153192748290>**

Keep safe and well.

Your President,
Philippe Coquerand

DEADLINE for issue 2/2022 5 May 2022

Text/photo submissions send to:

editor@swissclubqld.org.au
cc: prcoque@gmail.com

No special formatting/design needed
(email text or word ok, pdfs not ok). All
photos to be sent as separate jpgs.

Advertisement enquiries:

Advertising in the *Swiss News* supports our
club and you will reach 300+ Swiss/Aussies.
The *Swiss News* is printed four times a
year and is also published online. For
information and prices please contact:

Nicolas Eugster, call 0450 609 040
email: treasurer@swissclubqld.org.au

Swiss News deadlines 2022

Issue	Deadline submissions	Upload to print
1	Thursday, 3 February	Thursday, 10 February
2	Thursday, 5 May	Thursday, 12 May
3	Thursday, 4 August	Thursday, 11 August
4	Thursday, 27 October	Thursday, 3 November

Online version:

www.swissclubqld.org.au

Have you changed your contact details?

Please let us know so we can update our
records. Email: ritabrandli21@gmail.com

A warm welcome to our new members

- Ahuefa and Martin Schacher,
with Janine, Lukas and Sam, Brighton
- Frieda Haas, Pelican Waters
- Wilma and Simon Hart, with Lucas,
Yeronga
- Corinne Schlierenzauer, The Gap

Welcome to the Swiss Society of
Queensland. We look forward to getting
to know you at one of our events. Please
contact any of the committee members for
further info (see page 24).

Australia and Switzerland are elevating their strategic partnership and expanding cooperation.

Australia has reopened its embassy in Bern/
Switzerland in 2022 after a 30-year break.

Since 1 January 2022, young Swiss nationals
now have access to the Australian Work and
Holiday program.

Since 1 January 2022 Australian nationals are
allowed to enter Switzerland without a visa.
These are significant steps on the occasion
of the two countries celebrating 60 years of
diplomatic relations.

The Working Holiday Visa is a long awaited
program that many young people from other
countries could benefit from in the past. It will
allow young Swiss (aged 18 – 30) to travel in
Australia for initially 12 months and to support
themselves during their stay with short-term
employment in any industry.

As for Australian nationals entering
Switzerland, a visa will no longer be required,
regardless of the purpose and duration of the
stay (however residency related regulations
and permit requirements will still apply for any
stay longer than 3 months or where working is
involved).

More info: <https://bit.ly/2YU2GaV>
<https://lnkd.in/gZpN92su>

Swiss Yodel & Folklore Group

www.swissclubqld.org.au/yodel-folklore-group-baerg-roeseli



President Gabriel Dubler Ph 0435 570 241
Secretary Paul Spirig Ph 0413 235 208
Treasurer Peter Weidmann Ph 07 3397 8359

Email yodel@swissclubqld.org.au

Irregular rehearsals on Tuesdays, 7.30 to 10pm,
community room St Thomas' Anglican Church,
69 High Street, Toowong. Parking at Kensington Tce.

Dear friends of the Choir,

We're back together for a year of friendship and singing.

The friendship is easy to nurture as there are no limitations in getting together. We met at Willy's place for the AGM, sharing the best food in the World. Walking throughout his farm and preparing a roast on the fire. Then in January it was Charles' place with food and laughter while delicious mangoes were dropping from his tree. Imagine that.

Singing is a bit less easy. We like to keep our distances. Indoors is with masks so we comply. Singing can be done spread out in the church. It's not really the exact best way for a choir like us but it works.

As we live so far apart, over 100km, we are going to limit the rehearsals in Toowong and rehearse full days at members' places.

The two performances planned at this stage are the Buderim's Swiss Care Society's lunch and the Swiss National Day – Samford.

This is a year of travels; everyone is preparing their suitcases. Some of our members will be overseas during these performances. We therefore strongly invite each of you to join. All you need is enthusiasm and happiness. No prior singing required. Come along and see what we do with our rhythmic instruments, the spoons, and the brooms. The easiest way is to give me a call and we see how we make it happen. We are very few singers and it would be a pity to lose the choir.

Stay healthy and happy.

Gabriel – President

**To join the choir please contact Gabriel:
0435 570 241 or yodel@swissclubqld.org.au**



Rehearsal at church – Fun with virtual reality golf during holidays.

Swiss Community Care Society

www.swissclubqld.org.au/swiss-community-care-society

President	Franz Braun	0421 384 060
Secretary	Luana Storni	0413 865 712
Treasurer	Anita Bickel	0457 457 211
Email	care@swissclubqld.org.au	

Members	Marianne Bucher	0429 983 883
	Suzanne Dolle	0408 191 537
	Florido Bizzozero	0411 224 184
	Rita von Rotz	0431 707 144
	Hedi Bates	0438 071 042

Senior Citizens Lunch Buderim

Sunday 22 May 2022

Where: Headland Golf Course, Golf Links Road, BUDERIM

Time: 10:30 Doors open
11:30 Yodel Choir entertainment
12:30 Hot lunch buffet, dessert and coffee

Guests are very welcome.

Cost: The lunch is free for all financial members over 65 years, \$30 for other adults, children are \$15.

Drinks are available from the bar – strictly no BYO (including raffle prices).

As always there will be a Tombola.

RSVP: Bookings are essential
RSVP by 13 May 2022

To Rita von Rotz: 0431 707 144 or
Anita Bickel: 0457 457 211

or email: care@swissclubqld.org.au

Government COVID restrictions for hospitality venues apply.

If anyone would like a lift, please contact one of our committee members; we will try to arrange carpooling.

I am writing these words from rainy and finally cooled down (3 Feb) Toowoomba, while in the “lowlands” it’s still hot and humid. Living in the mountains definitely has its perks.



Erika Vincent

At the last AGM we were able to elect a new Secretary, welcome Luana Storni. At the same time we had to say farewell to two of our members. Erika Vincent was our secretary for many years, and Erika Voser who has left the committee but is still helping out if needed. We thank both of them again for their invaluable work.

Thank you to all who have donated the bottle exchange money to our group. We have received about \$70 so far.

Please mark your calendars for our **2022 Christmas lunch**. We have booked the Anglican Hall in Ascot for **Saturday 26 November**.

I hope you have all started well into the new year and stay healthy. Please contact us if you need support or just for a chat. That is what we are here for.

Anita Bickel

A new way to support us!

We have set up an account with **Containers for Change**. Use ID number C10509757 or scan the code and your refund will go straight into our account.

C10509757



Swiss Community Care Society

Our AGM/Christmas lunch in November was a big success



After the AGM, we enjoyed a delicious Christmas lunch.



All members received a Swiss-bag with homemade cookies. Thanks to all the bakers!

Swiss Community Care Society



A big THANK YOU to all the volunteers who helped at our AGM/Christmas lunch.



Do you need help? Would you like to help?

Swiss Care / Swiss Club Qld /
Council of the Swiss Abroad CSA /
Baerg-Roeseli yodel choir / Jass group /
Fraser Coast group / Gold Coast group

The below club members are here to assist and to connect you with the right people if you need help or would like to help during the COVID-19 crisis. Please complete and hand this form to them, or call or email with following info (tick relevant boxes if you need/want to help):

☐ I need help

- ☐ with visits
- ☐ with computers
- ☐ with shopping

☐ other

my name

contact info.....

☐ I could help/volunteer

Together we are strong!

Swiss Care	Franz Braun	0421 384 060	fbraun@bigpond.net.au
Swiss Club	Philippe Coquerand	0407 677 828	proque@gmail.com
CSA	Katja Wallimann Gates	041 873 7488	kwgates@csa-oceania.org
Yodel	Gabriel Dubler	0435 570 241	g.dubler@qut.edu.au
Jass	Rita Von Rotz	0431 707 144	vonrotz@optusnet.com.au
Fraser Coast	Cecile Scherrer	0409 286 326	cecile.sch70@gmail.com
Gold Coast	Bruno Vogt	0407 593 826	bruno2017ex@gmail.com

.... and every committee member from our various clubs.

Office use only (action suggested):

.....



Swiss Care QLD COVID-19 Community Support

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SwissCareCOVID19>

To help and assist our members during the COVID-19 crisis and to stay in touch, we have created a private Facebook and messenger chat group

on the FB PAGE

- read/post useful information in relation to COVID

in our CHAT group

- we entertain each other with jokes, ideas and express our feelings

Please join us!

Fraser Coast Group

www.swissclubqld.org.au/fraser-coast-swiss-group

Cecile Scherrer

Phone 07 4194 0105
Mobile 0409 286 326

Email cecile.sch70@gmail.com

Address 133/99 Doolong Road, Kawungan Qld 4655

Get-Togethers for Aussie-Swiss-Families in the areas of Hervey Bay, postal codes 4650, 4655, 4659, 4660, 4662, 4670. Please note, participation at all events at your own risk.

Our Santa/Christmas event was postponed from Saturday in Booral to Sunday 5 December in Maryborough. Bin and Urs invited us to a yummy slow cooked roast lunch in a huge shed, which we decorated christmas-like. All brought a delicious dessert. Only 3 members baked 'grittibänze', but they were very cute ones.

After the lunch we were treated to a tour through Urs and Bin's company **fgs composites** fgscomposites.com.au to see and hear about OZ and International fibreglass construction such as buildings, Wetparks creatures, boats and caravans and special orders.

Urs also created huge statues for landscaping and not forgetting the Balancing Bear in Bern. Urs is very talented, just like his father (who sadly died in December).

Our 15 December lunch was in the Taverne restaurant, which was also nicely decorated in the Christmas spirit.

On 15 January only 6 members were not afraid to meet on the veranda again at the Taverne.

Our 15 February Lunch will be on the veranda of Kondari Resort.

We have so far been lucky with less COVID cases as in other places.

For more details contact the organiser.

Cecile Scherrer
0409 286 326
cecile.sch70@gmail.com



The creative 'Grattibänze', well done!

Our Christmas lunch



Gold Coast Group

www.swissclubqld.org.au/gold-coast-swiss-group

Bruno Vogt Ph 0407 593 826
Email: bruno2017ex@gmail.com

Hansruedi and Merla Schwegler
Ph 07 5529 4763 / 0408 717 796

No text/event was submitted by the Gold Coast Group. Given the current COVID situation, we understand that gatherings are not advisable at the moment. We look forward to the time this will change again and wish our members at the Gold Coast all the best, stay safe!

Why not visit this fabulous art exhibition of one of our own Swiss Club members

25 February - 9 March 2022

paper scissors flower

a contemplation on fragility, change, decay - and beauty.

papercuts and pastels



Gabriella Veidt-Wiedmer

Brisbane Institute of Art

25. February - 9. March 2022, 10am- 4pm

41 Grafton Street, Windsor, QLD

Inquiries: Gabriella 0428777164 or BIA 38575377

I'm a Brisbane based artist. Papercutting has become a major part of my work, which also includes artist's books and soft pastel painting.

The craftsmanship, delicacy, and simplicity of the papercut is something I find fascinating, as is working with the limitations of the black paper, a pair of scissors and occasionally a knife. The inspirations for these works come from situations and objects I stumble across,

ordinary objects, ordinary situations, but if I stop and look closer, beauty and possibly a story might reveal itself. As I mount them sculpturally the shadows add another element for play and expression.

I'm looking forward to sharing my newest works in this coming free exhibition at the Brisbane Institute of Art. Maybe I'll see some of you there!

Gabriella Veidt-Wiedmer



Movie Night

Wednesday, 16 March 2022

Please join us for a fun evening, which we will start with a small dinner ("Wienerli" and bread), then we will watch the movie and end the evening with a yummie dessert and chatting with friends. Movie title to be announced in the next couple of weeks.

Date: Wednesday, 16 March 2022

Time: 6pm for a light dinner which consists of wienerli and bread, coffee and cake. The movie itself starts at 7pm.

Venue: Anglican Church Hall
56 Racecourse Road, Ascot

Cost: \$10 for dinner and a gold coin for the movie.

RSVP: Philippe Coquerand, phone 0407 677 828 or email prcoque@gmail.com

New Head of Mission at the Swiss Embassy in Canberra



The Embassy of Switzerland in Canberra is pleased to announce the arrival of its new Head of Mission, **Ambassador Caroline Bichet-Anthamatten**, who addresses the readers of the *Swiss Review* – *Regional News Oceania*:

"I am very honored and happy to represent Switzerland to Australia – and proud to be the first woman holding this position – as well as being ambassador to Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

I arrived in Australia on January 1, 2022 together with my husband and our four children and we felt warmly welcomed and immediately at ease.

Hailing from Geneva, the sight of the spectacular *Jet d'Eau* in Canberra upon arriving in the Bush Capital brought up fond memories of home. I feel fortunate having an opportunity to re-connect with this multicultural country that I first visited during my studies and its unique cultural and natural heritage.

The bilateral relations between Switzerland and Australia are not only excellent but also have a remarkable potential for development. The forthcoming opening of the Australian Embassy in Bern shows the growing closeness of our two countries and I am looking forward to contributing to its intensification.

I'm also keen to get to know the members of the Swiss community in Australia and to support them, together with the team of the Embassy, the Consulate General in Sydney and our Honorary Consuls, especially in this complex period. Faced with the challenges of our time, it is more necessary than ever to work closely together.

You can count on my commitment.»

EASTER Bunny

Sunday, 27 March 2022



All Swiss members and their families are welcome to join us again for the big Easter basket hunt.

This year the Easter Bunny will visit us at Simpson Falls picnic area (328 Sir Samuel Griffith Dr, Mount Coot-tha)

The popular Simpson Fall picnic spot is nestled between tall gum trees in the Mount Coot-Tha forest. The picnic area has barbecues, tables and toilets.

It has also plenty of grassy space so you can throw down the picnic blanket, relax and enjoy the surrounds.

We will also be doing some craft activities for the little and not so little ones.

Date: Sunday, 27 March 2022

Time: from 10am onwards

Venue: Simpson Falls picnic area. We will mark our table with a small Swiss flag.

Cost: Member kids free.
Non-member kids \$7 each

RSVP: By 18 March 2022
Nicole Berner
phone 0410 185 227
nicole.berner@yahoo.com.au

Bring: Picnic, drinks, soccer ball, frisbee, sunscreen, fold up chairs, insect repellent.

illustration: www.freepik.com/Hand-drawn-vector-created-by-pikisuperstar

Jass Meisterschaft Brisbane

Sunday, 24 April 2022



PLEASE NOTE:

If there are any COVID-19 restrictions, we will let you know, cross fingers it will all be ok!

- Date:** Sunday, 24 April 2022
- Time:** Doors open 8.30am for 9am start
- Venue:** St. Colomb's Anglican Church Hall,
23 Victoria Street Clayfield (same as last year)
- Cost:** \$30 – preferably paid online
BSB 034 002, Account 708 120
- Costs include: Coffee, tea and lunch
- RSVP:** 18 April 2021 to register
- Ruth Milwright, call 0414 705 255
email: ruth.jasstournament@gmail.com
- Rita von Rotz, call 0431 707 144
email vonrotz@optusnet.com.au
- Note:** Early RSVP is very much appreciated. Lunchers and socialisers should also book for catering purposes.



Last year's Jassers.



Save the Date:

Jass Tournament – Sunday 12 June

We will keep you informed as more information is released.

Fondue Evening

Saturday, 7 May 2022

The once-a-year event not to be missed at the Swiss Society of Queensland!



Please note: Pre-paid bookings only.

Date: Saturday, 7 May 2022

Time: door opens 5.30pm for a 6.15pm start.

Venue: South Brisbane Sailing club,
68 Hill End Terrace, West End

Cost: Members pay \$35
Non-members pay \$45
Member families \$80
Non-member families \$100 (2 adults
and 2 children under 12). Additional
child under 12 \$10. Price includes
fondue, coffee and dessert. Drinks can
be purchased at the bar. No B.Y.O.

RSVP: by 23 April 2021
Nicole Berner, phone 0410 185 227,
nicole.berner@yahoo.com.au

Payment required by 23 April.

Pre-paid bookings only, with 2 options:

- EFT Direct Bank payment: Westpac, BSB 034-002, Account 708 120, Swiss Society of Queensland, with your name in the description.
- Cheques payable to: Swiss Society of Queensland, PO Box 3240, Newstead Qld 4006, with your name at the back.

Groups of 4 and more, including children, will receive allocated seating.

Please send us the full name of every participant, including children's names and age.

Please let us know if you can bring a cheese fondue caquelon when you book.

NEWS

Life certificates: Simpler process

The Swiss Compensation Office (SCO) is using automatic exchange of information to improve the process of checking whether pensioners are still alive. This will simplify the procedure for the majority of Swiss nationals who draw an OASI/DI pension.

All insured persons who drew an OASI/DI benefit have had to submit a life certificate to the Swiss Compensation Office (SCO) at regular intervals in order to ensure their pension is paid without interruption. As of this year (2022), this process, which is costly for both the SCO and the insured persons, will be simplified through the introduction of the automatic exchange of information between the various administrative bodies, including the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA.

Specifically, this means that Swiss nationals residing abroad who are duly registered with the Swiss embassy or consulate of their country

of residence will no longer be asked to provide a life certificate, as this information will be transmitted directly from the Register of the Swiss Abroad to the SCO.

Swiss nationals who are not registered with the diplomatic or consular offices will still be asked to submit life certificates. They must fill in the document as usual and have it endorsed in order to prevent their pension from being stopped.

The new procedure will apply from 2022. Anyone who has not yet submitted their life certificate for 2021 will still need to be required to do so.

However, the new simplified procedure does not affect the obligation to inform the SCO directly of any changes in personal status such as a change of address or marital status, etc.

At the beginning of 2022, the SCO also launched an information campaign which will be repeated throughout the year. Every insured person will be personally informed about this change at the time they were due to have received the relevant life certificate form.

Dear Swiss Abroad,

How do you inform yourself about what is happening in Switzerland? What is important to you when you consult a medium?

SWI swissinfo.ch is currently conducting **a major survey on the media usage of the Swiss abroad**. SWI swissinfo.ch is the international online medium of the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation (SRG SSR) with ten languages.

We want to better understand your information habits so that we can provide you with even better information in the future. We are interested in how you inform yourself about events in Switzerland and in the world and how you maintain contact with

Switzerland or with other Swiss abroad. In order to obtain relevant information, we rely on your help. It is also an opportunity to give us feedback and to participate in the further development of our information offering.

We would therefore appreciate it very much if you would take part in our survey. You can find the survey under the following link:
www.intervista.ch/swissinfo

The survey is conducted by the Swiss market research institute Intervista on behalf of SWI swissinfo.ch. Thank you for your valuable support. If you have questions, email demi.schneider@swissinfo.ch

Kind regards
Demi Schneider

Jass Group

www.swissclubqld.org.au/jass-group

The social Jass Group meets every 2nd Wednesday evening, from 6pm at the Gallopers Sports Club, Cnr Lancaster and Nudgee Rds, Ascot, Brisbane 4007

For more information please contact:

Ruth Milwright – 0414 705 255

Rita von Rotz – 0431 707 144

Everyone is welcome. If you want to learn, we can teach you how to play Jass.



Please note:

Events will only be held if COVID-19 regulations allow it.

Please check with the organisers if unsure.

Jass Dates 2022

January 12, 26	February 9, 23	March 9, 23	April 6, 20	May 4, 18	June 1, 15, 29
July 13, 27	August 10, 24	September 7, 21	October 5, 19	November 2, 16, 30	December 14

Take a culinary journey to the Swiss Alps

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order online now at www.fromart.com.au

Resources for german-speaking kids abroad

Germanwithkids.com ist die erste globale Informations- und Ressourcen Webseite für Familien mit deutschsprachigen Kindern im Ausland und hat sich seit dem Start 2016 sehr erfreulich ausgebreitet. Viele im Ausland lebenden Familien möchten gerne die deutsche Sprache weitergeben und fördern, haben aber oft Schwierigkeiten im Dschungel des Internets hilfreiche Hinweise zu finden.

Die Webseite bietet gut recherchierte Informationen.

www.Germanwithkids.com

www.facebook.com/germanwithkids

‘Die Schweizerstunde’ (The Swiss hour)

German language program on Radio 4EB 98.1FM

Listen to us on Radio 4EB in the greater Brisbane area on **98.1FM**.

You can listen to our radio programs via the internet on **www.4eb.org.au**

All our previous programs are kept in archive: You can browse and re-listen.

The German language program:

Monday 21h – 22h

Friday 9h – 10h

Saturday 11h – 12h

‘Schweizerstunde’ 1st/5th

Saturday/month 11h – 12h

**The French language program,
l’heure francophone:**

every Saturday 17h – 18h.

Our broadcasting times depend on membership. **Please become a member to keep this program alive.** Email us (see below).

Please email us your favourite Swiss songs and topics, which could be of interest to our Swiss community in Brisbane.

Email **4ebgerman@gmail.com**



www.facebook.com/4EBGerman



@4ebgerman

RADIO 4
EB
**98.1 FM Band
and Global
GERMAN
Language Group**

Sendungen
in
Brisbane:
Mo 21 – 22 Uhr
Fr 9 – 10 Uhr
Sa 11 – 12 Uhr
Freizeitlich mit Klängen am Sa 9 – 10 Uhr

100 Maria Steiner
Klangwelt Radio 98.1 FM
Phone 07 3240 8600 Mo-Fri 9-5pm AEST
Email: klangwelt@gmail.com



Dear Swiss Friends,

Radio 4EB plays host to many events either at the station or elsewhere.

One of them is the Women's Luncheon, which has been held regularly 2 or 3 times each year. Here at Radio 4EB, the Women's Luncheon is normally attended by wonderfully diverse women in the community. Women's Luncheon provides inspiration, celebrates diversity and supports equality. A diverse and equal world is an enabled world. Individually, we're all responsible for our own thoughts and actions - all day, every day. We can actively choose to challenge stereotypes, fight bias, broaden perceptions, improve situations and celebrate women's achievements.

The first Women's Luncheon in the year is regularly close to the globally celebrated International Women's Day in March. Come along and enjoy an afternoon of activities, talks and friendship and enjoy talks from our guest speakers. Plus we will have entertainment and food for all attendees.

This is a FREE event, come along and also bring your friends. But – for organising purposes – please confirm your attendance for the event by calling the Radio 4EB's office on 07 3240 8600 (Mon – Fri, 9 am – 5 pm). The next Women's Luncheon is likely taking place on Saturday 5th March 2022, however, please, check the Radio 4EB website closer to the event for confirmation.

“Die Schweizerstunde” sagt Danke für's zueloose.

Maria Steiner, Thomas Mühe and the German language program team



Bushwalking Group

www.swissclubqld.org.au/active-groups/bushwalking-group-2

Peter Zuend – Email: bushwalker@swissclubqld.org.au

The Bush walk group organises day walks in non-urban areas, within two hours drive of Brisbane, four to five times per year. If you want to come along, please register by email now and when we organise a walk we will send you an email with details two weeks in advance.

Foxbar Falls camping

Stanthorpe 26–30 January 2022

Foxbar Falls campground proved to be a perfect get-away. The Swissies (about 17 in all) rolled in on an assortment of “wheels” or pitched tents to almost take over our designated camping area of “Rockview” with plenty to do during the day: cycling backroads, exploring the local ‘mountains’, swimming, kayaking, sitting by the Falls ... or simply reading a book or chatting to fellow campers. And of course, there was the “Jass table”! Two-month-old Maxime had plenty of ‘grandmothers’ ready to mind him! Anita’s technological expertise enabled ‘remote’ group photos. Peter’s local and geomorphic knowledge took us to ‘discovering’ the impressive local granite formations and at Donnelly’s castle as well as down some interesting 4WD backroads (thanks to the drivers Matthias, Heidi and Alex) looking for the elusive Nundubbermere Falls. Great that Philippe popped in for a night!

A big log fire brought us together at night with lots of chat, laughter, attempts at roasting over/in the fire (successfully – with some burnt bits!). Those who needed a ‘night excursion’ were treated to a spectacular sky of starlight brilliance and clarity.

So many bonuses to this weekend – community (what a great community!), activity and... whilst Brisbane sweltered, we enjoyed temperatures of generally 15–24C.... Special thanks to Peter Zuend for this great idea.

Heather-Ann Briker-Bell



Foxbar Falls



View from ‘Pig and Sow’ granite formation



Campfire community



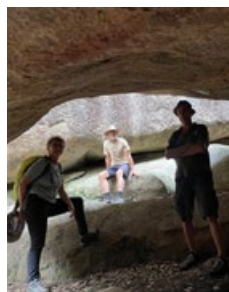
The intrepid climbers up Mt Ferguson. (Group photo courtesy of Anita Bickel)



Bush picnic at Nundubbermere Falls



Exploring by bike



Impressive Donnelly's Castle

Thanks Heather-Ann for the fantastic photos and report!

Our visit to Switzerland



Beat (my husband), Franziska (our daughter), Sebastian (Franziska's son) and I flew to Zurich via Singapore on 29.12.2021, to visit family. We departed from Melbourne (there was no other option at the time), where we had to do a COVID PCR test beforehand, \$73.00.

To prepare for the trip, we had to organise:

- an International COVID Certificate
- a Swiss COVID certificate
- an entry permit for Switzerland

When we arrived at the airport in Zurich, entry checks went relatively quickly.

We had a wonderful time in Switzerland and we were so happy to see most of our family and friends again. Unfortunately, many were also sick with COVID, so we couldn't see them.

Whenever we went to a restaurant a copy of the Swiss ID and vaccination card was taken by phone. It was very strict! In the shops and trains, buses etc. everyone wore masks.

There are many people who are not vaccinated, they say: 'my body, my decision'.

The day before our return trip on 20.1.2022 we had to do a spit test at the airport (SFR 150 pay by credit card), unfortunately Beat was COVID-positive and he couldn't travel back with us and had to quarantine at home with his mum for seven days.

For our return flight we had to fill out an entry permit from Australia.

In Singapore we were taken to a transit room by the airport police, where we had to wait five hours until our onward flight to Melbourne. When we arrived in Melbourne, Franziska was able to drive straight home with Sebastian (she lives in Melbourne). A rapid test the next day which was negative and she was able to get on with her normal life!

I had to spend the night in the cold airport before boarding my 6am flight to Brisbane, where I had arranged for a friend to park my car so I could drive straight home to quarantine. I had to answer some questions from the quarantine officer and got a negative test, so after 2 days I was able to go back to normal life.

Beat comes home on Sunday evening, 10 days longer than planned. His mother was very happy that she had her son for a little longer. I was able to change Beat's ticket with Singapore Airlines for a small fee, but I was on the phone with them for 7 hours...

Would we do the trip again? Most certainly. We just have to learn to live with this virus and make the best of it!

Vreni Schoenenberger



Beat and Yolanda, my sister, enjoying a yummie Swiss fondue



*The snow was amazing.
A 'first' for Sebastian!*



*Mum-In-Law, 94 years,
on '3 Koenigs Tag'*

Aarburg Castle Aargau, Switzerland

Aarburg Castle is in the municipality of Aarburg in the canton of Aargau. The castle was built around a medieval castle, which controlled the narrow point on the Aare river and served as the seat of Aarburg Vogt. It is classified as a Swiss heritage site of national significance. Today it houses the 'Kantonale Jugendheim', for rehabilitating juvenile offenders.

The exact date of construction is not known. But it was probably built around 1200 by the Lords of Büron. The building was mentioned at the beginning of the 13th Century, in the possession of the Counts of Froburg. The Vogtei was created to better control and monitor the important north-south trade route over the Aare River. Together with the Vogt's seat, the high court was also held at the castle.

*Photo sent in by Gabriel Dubler.
Thank you!*



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Swiss Community

**Organisation of
the Swiss Abroad**

The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
(OSA) has created a new webpage
www.SwissCommunity.org.

**The aim is to have a one-stop-shop
page for all Swiss living abroad.**

We provide advice on legal questions,
social security insurance, educational
matters and much more. This new website
is combining and replacing three older
ones from OSA.

SwissCommunity.org

The Joke BÖxli



What do you call a girl standing in the middle of a tennis court? *Annette.*

Why are fish never good tennis players?
They don't like getting close to the net.

How many tennis players does it take to change a light bulb? *None, because they all say,
“What do you mean it was out, it was in!”*

Why was the tennis court so loud?
Because all the players raised a racket.

Where did the tennis players go on their date?
The tennis ball.

Why should you never fall in love with a tennis player?
To them, “Love” means nothing.

What did one tennis ball say to the other tennis ball?
“See you round..”



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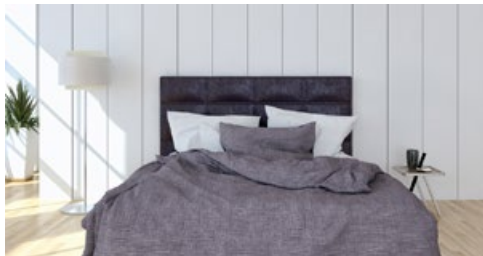
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Justice of the Peace Élise Charrière (SSQ club member Brisbane) elise.charriere@gmail.com			

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWAL

1 July 2021 – 30 June 2022

Email to: treasurer@swissclubqld.org.au
or send to Swiss Society of Queensland, PO Box 3240, Newstead Qld 4006

EXISTING MEMBER – RENEWAL

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Partner Surname _____ Given Name _____ DOB _____

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And **Santa** came to the party!

What a blast we had at our Swiss Christmas event. Guests devoured 30 kg of 'Servelat', Bratwurst and potato salad. In total we had about 40 children and 50 adults attend. We sold all our 'Zopf' and 'Nussgipfel'. Thank you Jakob and Philip Berner for grilling up a storm and Rita and Nicolas for doing a fantastic job running the café. René served cold drinks from his bar on the deck of the Manly Sea Scouts Club House.

It was a beautiful December day with clear blue skies and sunshine. For members celebrating their first "Summer" Christmas it must have been a strange sight, seeing Swiss Santa (aka Gabriel Dubler) pull up in his yellow Deux Chevaux while people were swimming and enjoying the sun.

The kids enjoyed dancing and singing along to DJ Daves's festive tunes. Swiss Santa had a chance to have a chat to every child before presenting them with a traditional 'Samichlaus'/'Père Noël' bag, filled with goodies and a small present. Phil and Florence were great Santa helpers.

Once again the committee would like to thank everyone for supporting us through another tough year; by attending the events, we are able to organise and making them a success.

Nicole Berner – SSQ Vice-President





photos by Élise Charrière, Philippe Coquerand and Gabriel Dubler, thank you all!

And **Santa** came to the party!

Our Swiss Christmas get-together was a huge success, with Santa's visit being the highlight.

