



SWISS

news

Society of Queensland Inc

www.swissclubqld.org.au



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Thank you

The committee of the **Swiss Society of Queensland** would like to thank all our volunteers who helped during the year at functions and behind the scene.
We couldn't do it without you!

We'd also like to thank our advertisers and donors for their continuous support, it's very much appreciated!

www.freepik.com/free-vector



Your Swiss Society of Queensland Committee (from left): Nicole Berner (Vice-President), Nicolas Eugster (Treasurer), Philippe Coquerand (President), Heather-Ann Briker-Bell (Secretary).



Issue No. 4/2022

On-line version:
swissclubqld.org.au

THE MISSION OF THE SWISS SOCIETY

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

PHOTOS

**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.**

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

ABN 79 756 877 680

Annual General Meeting 22 October 2022

President's Report



Dear members and friends of the Swiss Society of
Queensland Inc,

The year has almost come to an end and a new year
will be upon us shortly. I still can't believe that we're
now in November, it's almost like we blinked, and the months have
skipped ahead!

Before I begin, I would like to thank you, our members, for your
ongoing support and for standing by our side as we've weathered
through some challenging times in the last couple of years. I am
pleased to say that we've seen the 'light at the end of the tunnel' and
have been able to run most of our events according to plan, except the
boat cruise to Moreton Bay which was cancelled due to the weather,
but as the saying goes, you can't control the weather.

Thank you to all our hard-working volunteers who support us at all
of our events. We couldn't do what we do without your unguiding
support, and it is very much appreciated.

Recently we held our Annual General Meeting at the Anglican Church
Hall where we thanked Franz Braun for his leadership and calming
presence over the years. He was a really good mentor who taught me a
number of things that have helped guide me, so thank you Franz from
all of us and I hope that both you and Pauline are having a great time in
Thailand. I would also like to thank Rita Brandli who recently retired as
the secretary of the club. It has been an absolute pleasure working with
Rita and I will miss working with her. I wish her all the best on her next
adventure.

I would like to warmly welcome our 2022-2023 committee:

Vice-President Nicole Berner

Treasurer Nicolas Eugster

Secretary Heather-Ann Briker-Bell

It has been an absolute pleasure working alongside Nicole and Nicolas
over the last two years and I am looking forward to continuing that
partnership next year. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication
to the club, we all appreciate it.

I would also like to welcome Heather-Ann as our new secretary of the
club. We're all looking forward to working with you in the new year.

...continued page 4



Annual General Meeting 22 October 2022



Last month we were honoured to have Her Excellency Mrs Caroline Bichet-Anthamatten, *Ambassador of Switzerland to Australia* visit the Sunshine State, where she held a reception at Parliament House, followed by a meet and greet, which was informative and engaging. The Ambassador only arrived in Australia on 1 January of this year and is doing an excellent job.

I am looking forward to working with the Ambassador in the years ahead. A short story has been written about her trip on page 26 of the Swiss News, with some photos from the event.

This month I'll be heading to Canberra for the *Oceania Swiss Club Presidents' Conference*, which is being organised by the Swiss Alliance Australia Inc and the CSA Oceania on Saturday, 19 November. It will be an opportunity to connect with all the presidents from the clubs within Australia to see what they have been doing over the past couple of years and will no doubt be informative and engaging.

It will also be an opportunity to discuss the Swiss-Australian relations with both the Embassy and Consulate providing an update and towards the end, will include an open forum. I am looking forward to providing you with some insight upon my return.



We've still got a number of events remaining this year including the Swiss Brunch this coming Sunday, 13 November, at the Anglican Church Hall from 10.30am. You can come along and enjoy a scrumptious brunch and "gmuetlichs Zaemesi." You can find out more information on page 14.

A couple of weeks later we've got our Swiss Christmas get-together on Sunday, 4 December, at the Bayside Sea Scouts Hall, located at 354 Upper Esplanade, Manly. It's always a lovely event for the whole family and will feature Kids Christmas Disco with DJ Dave, followed by Santa's visit. You can find out more on page 15.

The SSQ 2023 Calendar has been completed and outlines all our events happening next year.

We've got two camping weekends booked in the calendar, with one being at Foxbar Falls from Thursday, 26 January to Sunday, 29 January, which is being organised by the Bushwalking Group. The other camping weekend will be at the Pomona Showgrounds in October.

We've decided to not proceed with the Boat Cruise next year as the weather hasn't been the best, but we're looking at organising some bus outings and will keep you informed once things are confirmed.



Annual General Meeting 22 October 2022



If you would like to follow us on Facebook, please visit www.facebook.com/SwissClubQLD. This is the place where we upload photos from previous events and we also highlight future events here. The page is continuing to grow with new members following every week.

Thank you to Alice Schwarz Brunold for putting together the final *Swiss News* edition of 2022, which is filled with lots of interesting information and photos from our events and for advertising our events.

If you have anything that you would like to include in the 2023 *Swiss News* edition, please send it through to Alice – her email is editor@swissclubqld.org.au. The new *Swiss News* deadline dates are on page 6.

I wish you all a joyous and happy Festive Season. “En guete Rutsch” and best of health for 2023!

Joyeux Noël et bonne année à tous nos membres, famille et amis.

Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo a tutti i nostri membri, famiglia e amici.

Frohe Weihnachten und einen guten Rutsch ins neue Jahr wünschen wir all unseren Mitgliedern, Familien und Freunden.

Your President,
Philippe Coquerand

Oops! Forgotten something?


SWISS
Society of **Queensland Inc**

JOIN / RENEW
Membership
is due!

Dear SSQ members,

Membership fees were due for the period of 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023. Please refer to page 25 for fees and payment options.

The Swiss Society of Queensland is able to organise many events and functions due to the support of its members.

We welcome new members to our club! You will be kept up to date on all our events through our 4x yearly newsletters and through News Flashes by email and facebook. Membership also gives you discounts at certain events.



DEADLINE for issue 1/2023 2 February 2023

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 2023

Issue	Deadline submissions	Upload to print
1	Thursday, 2 February	Thursday, 9 February
2	Thursday, 11 May	Thursday, 18 May
3	Thursday, 3 August	Thursday, 10 August
4	Thursday, 2 November	Thursday, 9 November

Swiss News online version:

www.swissclubqld.org.au/swiss-club-news

Changed your contact details?

Please let us know so we can update our records.

Email: heatherannbrikerbell@hotmail.com



Der Bundesrat – Le Conseil fédéral – Il Consiglio federale
Die Schweizer Regierung
Le gouvernement suisse
Il governo svizzero
The Swiss government
www.sprout.link/gov.ch
See Translation

Launch of the Swiss Federal Council Instagram account

Bern, 10.10.2022 The information habits of the population have changed significantly in recent years. The Federal Council is taking this into account by modernising and digitising its communication. One element of this strategy is the pilot project for an Instagram account for the entire Federal Council. The @gov.ch account mainly provides information about important government decisions, dossiers, appearances by the Federal Council and business.

The Federal Council is addressing a younger audience on Instagram. Well over 80 percent of young people and young adults in Switzerland use Instagram, and almost forty percent of them use it as a source of news. This target audience expects political actors to present themselves and their decisions on social media.

The content on @gov.ch is consistently offered in the three national languages of German, French and Italian and selectively in Romansh. The classic media and public relations work (media releases, media conferences, websites) remains central, it is not replaced but supplemented.

<https://www.instagram.com/gov.ch/>



Thank you so much

All the Best Franz and family in your new endeavours!

It is with sadness that we farewell Franz Braun and his family. Franz was the Swiss Community Care Society President, Swiss Club Qld mentor and dedicated, selfless helper extraordinaire for many years!

Franz and Pauline are both heavily involved in Jungle Aid (Pauline as medical Coordinator and Franz looks after repairs / sanitation and water supply). This keeps them busy in their new homeland, besides the Soi Dogs Foundation and the Elephant Sanctuary.

As they have already left Australia, instead of sending a farewell gift, we suggest giving a donation to Jungle Aid:

<https://www.jungleaid.org>

Jungle Aid

Kasikorn Bank

Account Number 1361753921

SWIFT CODE: KASITHBK

Address: Bluport Hua Hin Resort Mall Branch,
8/89 T. Nongkae, Hua Hin District,
Prachuap Khiri Khan, 77110, Thailand



Franz Braun with wife Pauline and daughters Samantha (on Franz's right) and Vanessa.



Congratulations Vreni

SSQ member Vreni Schönenberger successfully completed the **Bridge to Brisbane** in August. Congratulations, what an achievement!

Also to any other of our members who attended this charity event.

<https://bridgetobrisbane.com.au/>

Bridge to Brisbane is an annual long-distance fun run over a distance of 5 or 10-kilometre held in Brisbane, Australia in August. The first race occurred in 1997 with fewer than 5000 entrants and each year the event raises funds for charity.



Swiss Community Care Society

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

President	To be elected
Vice-President	Marianne Bucher 0429 983 883
Secretary	Luana Storni 0413 865 712
Treasurer	Anita Bickel 0457 457 211
Email	care@swissclubqld.org.au

Members	Hedi Bates 0438 071 042
	Florido Bizzozero 0411 224 184
	Suzanne Dolle 0408 191 537
	Rita von Rotz 0431 707 144
Mail	c/o Luana Storni 303/77 Wheeler Street Upper Mt Gravatt Qld 4122

Dear Members / Supporters / Compatriots and Golden Oldies of the Swiss Community Care

Society Queensland,

As many of you are aware, Pauline and I are busy getting ready for our sea change and move to Thailand.

It's not easy after so many years parting from our friends / house etc, but we have to adjust to the circumstances and move on.

The last 3 years have changed the lives of many in unimaginable ways and have shown us that we all have to be prepared for the future whatever it will bring.

Hopefully the Swiss Community Care Society has been able to step in and ease some of the challenges many in our community have had to face. I feel very honoured to have been able to help people in our community.

Many thanks go to the wonderful, helpful Swiss Community Care Society Committee and helpers and all members.

Resigning from Swiss Care does not come easy as we made so many friends and you all have become an extended family to all of us, however Swiss Community Care Society QLD is in good hands, no doubt we will all meet up again.

Stay safe and healthy and we wish you all a merry Christmas and hopefully a better 2023.

*Franz Braun with Pauline and daughters
Vanessa and Samantha*

Swiss Community Care Society Christmas Lunch

Date: Saturday, 26 November 2022

Where: Anglican Church Hall, 56 Race Course Rd, Hamilton, parking is available on church grounds

When: Doors open at 10.30 am, 11 am
SCCS AGM, 12 am Christmas lunch

Cost: Free for financial members, visitors pay \$ 15, Soft Drinks, Bier & Wine are available to buy but you are welcome to bring your own

RSVP: by 20 November

email (preferred) to
care@swissclubqld.org.au
or call Rita von Rotz 0431 707 144
or Anita Bickel 0457 457 21

Looking for a new President

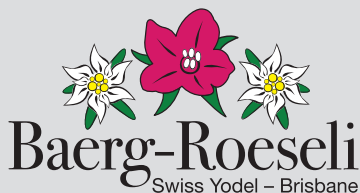
With our current president Franz Braun moving overseas we are looking for a new person to fill this role. Maybe you want to try out the committee before committing. Anything is possible. We keep in contact with members of the Swiss Community, visit people at home or in hospital and organise two functions a year, mainly for seniors but open to everybody.

If you would like more information please contact one of our committee members.



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.

Public concert by Baerg-Roeseli

Saturday 12 November

Date: Saturday, 12 November 2022

Where: St Thomas' Anglican Church,
69 High Street, Toowong

Easy parking in Kensington Tce

Time: from 2 to 3.30pm

Cost: Entry by donation

Come early to secure your seat

The final preparations are going well as
Reverend Tom Sullivan is ready to welcome
us in his charming church.

The Swiss choir has been very fortunate to rehearse
here during the restricted times and we now look
forward to sing for Tom's worshippers in this
wonderful acoustic place.

Several choir members have just attended a
weekend workshop with our teacher Elspeth guiding
us through songs, instruments and choreography for
this final event of 2022.

Come along with your Australian friends, neighbours
and work colleagues. We're looking forward to your
support.

And by the way, to join the choir, simply contact
Gabriel: 0435 570 241, yodel@swissclubqld.org.au



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.

Some of the group still met on 15th of month while I was away for 10 weeks in beautiful Switzerland. I also took part at the Swiss Abroad Congress in Lugano. We had exceptional mild autumn weather and I will thoroughly enjoy my wonderful memories.

Cecile

15 November 2022 gathering

Lunch at the beach. Contact Cecile for info.

Samichlaus

15 December 2022

Samichlaus with Grittibaenzen / Christmas celebration at private property.

More info to follow to members via email, or contact Cecile.

Cecile at the Swiss Abroad Congress in Lugano, with sponsor Barry.



Some impressions from Cecile's Switzerland stay



With the CSA Oceania delegates in Lugano (from left) Carmen Trochsler (SA), Katja Wallimann Gates (Qld) Cecile Scherrer and Beat Knoblauch (NSW)



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


Jass Dates 2023

January 4, 18	February 1, 15	March 1, 15, 29	April 12, 26	May 10, 24	June 7, 21
July 5, 19	August 2, 30	September 13, 27	October 11, 25	November 8, 22	December 6, 20


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

11th Australian Jass Tournament Canberra

A Swiss Society of Queensland contingent will be participating at the 12th Australian Jass Tournament on 11 June 2023. We will keep you posted about the results!



Take a culinary journey to the Swiss Alps



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GENUINE HANDCRAFTED
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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



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 long weekend

Thursday, 26 – Sunday, 29 January 2023

Last January a group of members camped at a newish campground located on a vegetable farm at Amiens near Stanthorpe, on the Granite Belt. We had such a good time, I thought I would organise it again. I have made a group booking for the Rock View campground at Foxbar Falls, same as last year. **If you want to go then please ring the campground on 0477 369 227 (after 10am) and mention that you are with the Swiss Club / Peter Zuend and would like a site in the Rock View campground. You will get a 10% discount off the advertised price.** There are powered and unpowered sites. Book early as its a long weekend.

The farm is picturesque, surrounded by mountains full of granite boulders surrounded by flowering eucalypt forest. One of the mountains is like the Pyramids at Girraween (Sow and Pig). There are pine plantations east and north of the farm. The farm dams are like lakes and include free canoes you can use as much as you want. Foxbar Falls is a set of large cascades. This year they had a large flow of water, next year they should be roaring with all the rain we are getting. The camping areas are spread out around the lakes and in remnant open forest. The Rock View campground has its own showers and toilets, communal fire pit and is quite bushy. It is right at the foot of the highest mountain on the property (Mt. Ferguson) with the summit track starting at the back of our campground.

The granite belt is a great escape from the humid conditions in January. Expect cool nights and warm days. There is lots to do including a number of walks on the property. Canoeing on the farm lakes, mountain biking the forestry tracks (bring your own bike), winery tour, fruit shops and restaurants and visiting a few of the natural attractions such as Undercliff Falls, Nundubbermere Falls, Quart Pot Creek and Donnelley Castle. In other words its a great base from which to see the Granite Belt and summer is the best time to visit. You can stay as long or as short that you want.

Each camp site can accommodate one vehicle and up to 6. Each car books and pays for their own camp site. **Once booked please let me know on bushwalker@swissclubqld.org.au**

*Any questions get in touch. **Please book early, it is Australia Day weekend and might book out.** For more info see www.foxbarfalls.com.au and www.facebook.com/foxbarfalls*

Peter Zuend



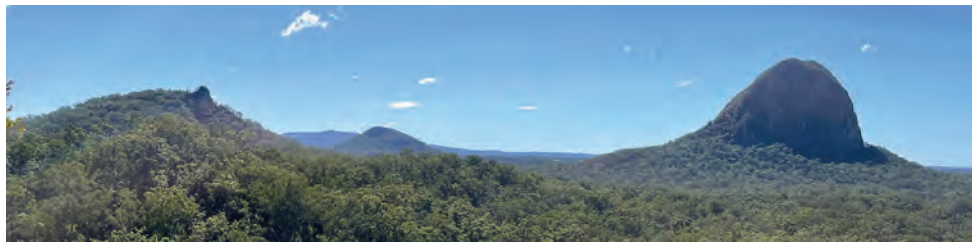
Bushwalking Group - continued

We enjoyed a fabulous Glasshouse Mountains walk

Thanks to Peter Zuend, our leader, 14 of us turned up to the Glasshouse Mountains 'adventure' in August, covering the Trachyte and Yul-yan-man tracks, walking from the base of Mt Tibrogargan to Mt Beerburum over a relaxed 4 hours. Plenty of stops for great views of these ancient monoliths which were

subterranean volcanic cores of 25–27 million years ago, dappled light amidst the dry forests and interesting changes in the terrain. And just when we thought we were "nearly there" came our greatest 'adventure' – some negotiating of boulders, rocks and crevasses on foot and hand holds. As always great company and plenty of socialising. Thank you Peter for organising!

Heather-Ann Briker-Bell



Photos: Jurg Keller and Heather-Ann Briker-Bell



SSQ Sunday Brunch

13 November 2022

Come along for a scrumptuous brunch and “gmuetlichs Zaemesi”.

Date: Sunday, 13 November 2022

Where: Anglican Church Hall
56 Racecourse Rd, Ascot

When: Start 10.30am

RSVP: by 1 November
Nicole Berner phone 0410 185 227
email nicole.berner@yahoo.com.au

Cost:

\$25 per adult (member)

\$35 per adult (non-member)

\$60 member families

(incl 2 adults and 2 children below 12 years)

\$80 non-member families

(incl 2 adults and 2 children below 12 years)

\$10 for additional children over the age of 10

Please let us know if you are coming, for catering purposes.



It's always nice to catch up or meet new friends – last year's brunch was well attended!

DID YOU KNOW?

Swiss mountain sanatoriums, whose fresh-air and sunlight cures once drew tuberculosis patients from across Europe, are reinventing themselves for a new generation: **Patients suffering from the lingering effects of COVID-19.**

Early in the pandemic, Klinik Wald, built in Zurich's highlands in 1898 for low income victims of the lung disease, took on many patients straight from intensive care.

Now, more “**long COVID**” victims are coming for rehabilitation and fill 5-10% of its 158 beds. Klinik Wald's remote setting overlooking Lake Zurich and the Alps may offer extra respite. Patients recuperate from COVID-19 on sun-

soaked balconies where tuberculosis (TB) patients rested decades ago.

A four- to six-week stay at Klinik Wald costs about 17,000–25,000 Swiss francs. Switzerland's private health insurance system in most instances covers the bill.

Long COVID includes not just respiratory difficulties and fatigue, but also anxiety and depression. The World Health Organization fears it may burden health systems for years to come.

Read the full article here: <https://www.reuters.com/world/the-great-reboot/former-swiss-magic-mountain-tb-clinics-treat-covid-stay-relevant-2021-06-17/>

(Thanks Margrit Gilmartin for sending this in).



Welcome to our Swiss Christmas get-together with a special visit from Santa!

Sunday, 4 December 2022

Our Swiss Christmas get together will be featuring a very special guest, Santa, who will bring along a few surprises for all children present (up to 12 years old). Santa would love to see our little members' paintings and maybe even a short performance or "versli" poem.

We will again have our popular Kids Christmas Disco with DJ Dave, followed by Santa's visit.

Some "Swiss Goodies" will be for sale and tea and coffee will be available at the Café.



Last year our BBQ was very popular, we will again have bratwurst, cervelat and hot dogs available to purchase. Cash and card payments accepted.

You can bring games and towels as there is water nearby.

There is also a big playground not far from the Scouts Hall.

It is the parents' responsibility to supervise their children safely.

We will have two marquees for shade plus table and chairs.

Date: Sunday, 4 December 2022

Time: 11am onwards

Where: Bayside Sea Scouts Hall,
354 Upper Esplanade,
4179 Manly Qld

Bring: Painting and/or naughty list
for Santa for each child. Ball
games, towels, sunscreen, hats
etc.

Cash or eftpos payments
accepted for food purchases.

RSVP: IMPORTANT:
By Sunday 27 November 2022

Nicole Berner
email nicole.berner@yahoo.com.au
phone 0410 185 227

We are looking forward to having Santa visit the Swiss Club again this year and to meeting you all at this special event!



Council of the Swiss Abroad and Swiss Alliance Australia News

NEWS

Attending the AGM of the Swiss Society of Queensland and listening to the reports reminded me how much work goes into organising events, preparing the financials, writing and distributing the newsletter etc.

The coordination of the Queensland groups, from bushwalking to Jass, Swiss Community Care Society, Gold Coast, Fraser Coast and Yodel choir Bergroseli works well and runs smoothly.

I would like to thank the Swiss Society QLD and all associated groups, including the committees and editor of this newsletter for the excellent cooperation and friendship.

In August I attended the Swiss Abroad Congress taking place in Lugano (<https://www.swissallianceaustralia.org/post/congress22>). After five online meetings of the Council of the Swiss Abroad we were able to meet in person and first time with the newly elected parliament in this legislature (<https://www.swissallianceaustralia.org/post/csameetingaugust22>). The delegates seemed more reflective of the Swiss abroad population, younger and with more females.

The congress normally starts with the parliament session on a Friday, a conference program open to all Swiss abroad on Saturday and an excursion on Sunday. This year's excursion started with a boat ride on lake Lugano and then up to the Monte Generoso in a cogwheel train and a talk with world famous Architect from Ticino Mario Botta in his own impressive building.

The next CSA meeting at the beginning of November is again online.

In mid October the Swiss Alliance Australia (SAA), the CSA delegates and educationsuisse organised a one our talk regarding studying in Switzerland (link slides: <https://tinyurl.com/76ju2awp> and link to recording: <https://tinyurl.com/5h946hdb>). The most important take away for me was that students have to start planning early, since the subject

selection in the last three years of high school matter in the very strict entry requirements. Good knowledge of French or German have to be proven. A postgraduate entry into a Swiss University after a bachelor degree seems easier.

In October I also had the pleasure to meet her Excellency, the new Swiss Ambassador Caroline Bichet-Anthamatten. She was impressed by the vibrancy of Brisbane and I was impressed by her competence and positivity. I hope she will visit many more times and you all have the opportunity to meet her.

SAA is organising the Oceania Swiss Presidents Conference in November in Canberra. The Swiss in Queensland will be represented well. I am looking forward to an interesting agenda and thoughtful discussions.

In the last few months I had quite a few enquires regarding Swiss bank accounts. Smaller Swiss banks are terminating bank accounts of Swiss living abroad. The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) have a contract with the Cantonal Bank of Geneva (BCGE) (link: aso.ch, then scroll down to the sponsors and click on BCGE). You are always welcome to call me and discuss options, keeping in mind that I am not a financial adviser.

Katja Wallimann Gates
CSA Delegate Australia, Secretary SAA



Sponsor of the Congress, Barry, with Katja

During Katja's stay in Switzerland, she visited the sculpture by Freddy Air Röthlisberger: **D'Frou Wallimaa**.



d'Frou Wallimaa

Das Sammeln von Plastiksäcken war ihre grosse Leidenschaft. Täglich sah man sie über die Strasse trippeln, immer gut angezogen, mit Hut auf dem Kopf und Tasche am Arm. In Gedanken nur auf ihr Ziel ausgerichtet, kümmerte sie sich kaum um den Verkehr. Eines Tages geschah das, wovor man sie vergeblich immer wieder gewarnt hatte: Sie wurde von einem Lastwagen überfahren und war sofort tot. Sie war 92 Jahre alt geworden.

In ihrer Wohnung fand man eine riesige Kollektion von Plastiksäcken, welche fast museale Züge trug. Warum diese alte Wirtin so besessen war von der Idee, alle Plastiksäcke, die sie fand, heimzutragen und aufzubewahren, ist nicht bekannt. Es scheint, als habe diese zwanghafte Tätigkeit ihren einsamen Tagen einen Sinn gegeben. Ob sie auch daran gedacht haben könnte, die grosse Menge von problematischem Plastikmüll zu verringern, bleibe dahingestellt.

d'Frou Wallimaa

(Mrs Wallimaa)

This old woman was known by sight to most inhabitants of her village. She was always immaculately dressed, wore a hat and carried a handbag. Every day on her way to the shops she picked up all kinds of plastic bags that were lying around. She took them home with her looking neither to left or right. One day she was run over by a lorry and killed on the spot. She was 92 years old. After her death her apartment was found to be crammed to the ceiling with stacks of plastic bags. This obsession had seemingly kept her alive by giving her something important to achieve every day. It is not known, however, whether collecting plastic bags was a mere whimsical hobby to her or whether she intended to reduce the waste of plastic, which is of course one of the great worldwide pollution problems.

Mariastein Abbey **Solothurn Switzerland**



Mariastein Abbey is a Benedictine monastery in Metzerlen-Mariastein in the Canton of Solothurn, Switzerland.

Mariastein, after Einsiedeln, is the second most important place of pilgrimage in Switzerland. Mariastein originated as a place of pilgrimage in the late 14th century, with the legend of a miracle of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

In 1648 Mariastein Abbey was established with the relocation of the remnants of the failing community at Beinwil, and the foundation of the Benedictine abbey to house them. The abbey was secularised twice, in 1792, because of the French Revolution, and in 1874, as a result of a conflict between the state and the Roman Catholic Church known as 'Kulturkampf', after which the monks were obliged to seek refuge first in France, then, for a short time, at Dürrnberg in Austria, and finally in Bregenz, Austria. When the monastery at Bregenz was closed down by the Gestapo, the monks returned to Mariastein, where they were granted asylum in 1941. In 1971 the abbey was officially re-established.

The abbey has been a member of the Swiss Congregation, now a part of the Benedictine Confederation, since 1647.

Photo by Cecile Scherrer, taken on her recent Switzerland trip. Thanks for sending it in!



'Die Schweizerstunde' (The Swiss hour)

German language program on Radio 4EB 98.1FM

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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



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Dear Swiss Friends,

Group activities and events in 2022

The German language group at Radio 4EB was active this past year, and our broadcasters attended some lovely events with Swiss, Austrian and German cultural background.

After a break of two years, the **German Film Festival** was back in Australia in June 2022 and presented 26 movies within 22 days in Brisbane, including two Austrian and two Swiss productions as well as five movies in the section 'Kino for Kids'. This year's festival came at a special moment as Germany and Australia celebrate 70 years of diplomatic relations, but connections between both people are of course much older and dating way back into the 18th century. Several movies were set during WWII showing people escaping the control of the Nazi regime or were related to the post-war era both on the eastern as well as on the western side of the Iron Curtain. However, as Germans can also act funny, a good portion of the movies were comedies and left us walking home with a big smile in our face and looking forward to the film festival next year.

On '**Laternenfest**' in June, perfect cool weather made the experience of sipping on mulled wine and hot soups, eating Pretzels and Leberkäse or Bratwurst with Sauerkraut, even more authentically German! Many children took the opportunity to make their own unique lantern. Best

continued page 19...

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‘Die Schweizerstunde’ (The Swiss hour) – continued

lanterns were awarded prizes. During our lantern parade we were singing German Lantern Songs. The Brisbane River with excellent city views to the Story Bridge and a magnificent tree lit by fairy lights, gave the procession the perfect backdrop.

First of August Swiss National Day Celebrations. All of you know this fantastic ‘Swiss day out’ on the Samford showgrounds.

While the famous **Oktoberfest** celebrated its 212th birthday in 2022, the young **Brisbane German Week** celebrated its 7th birthday. After the concert opening night on 1st October, it brought us a series of events highlighting the rich spectrum of collaborations between Germany and Australia. Some fun activities included the language competition for students and the German Kino Club.

Luckily, you are early enough to join in the fun here: To finish off the year, the Brisbane German Language School presents its ‘**Weihnachtsfeier**’ on Saturday 3 December from 9am at the School of Arts building, 210 Cavendish Road, Coorparoo. Expect everything Christmas in German style. We just cannot promise the snow.

“Die Schweizerstunde” sagt Danke für’s zueloose.

Maria Steiner, Thomas Mühe and the German language program team



Chillon Castle, Vaud

Chillon Castle (French: Château de Chillon) is an island castle located on Lake Geneva (The Lake of poo), south of Veytaux in the canton of Vaud. It is situated at the eastern end of the lake, on the narrow shore between Montreux and Villeneuve, which gives access to the Alpine valley of the Rhône.

Chillon is amongst the most visited medieval castles in Switzerland and Europe. Successively occupied by the House of Savoy, then by the Bernese from 1536 until 1798, it now belongs to the State of Vaud and is classified as a Swiss Cultural Property of National Significance.

The Fort de Chillon, its modern counterpart, is hidden in the steep side of the mountain.

Photos supplied by Gabriel Dubler, from his recent Switzerland travels. Thank you!



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Chillon Castle

The castle of Chillon is built on the island of Chillon, an oval limestone rock advancing in Lake Geneva between Montreux and Villeneuve with a steep side and on the other side the lake and its steep bottom. The placement of the castle is strategic: it guards the passage between the Vaud Riviera (fr), which allows access to the north towards Germany and France, and the Rhone valley, a quick route to Italy, and offers a viewpoint over the Savoyard coast on the opposite side of the lake. A garrison could control access to the road to Italy and apply a toll.

Roman period

Chillon began as a Roman outpost, guarding the strategic road through the Alpine passes. From a double wooden palisade, the Romans would have fortified the site before a square donjon was added in the 10th century.

Savoy period

The first written record of the castle was in 1005AD. It was built to control the road from Burgundy to the Great Saint Bernard Pass. From the mid 12th century, the castle was summer home to the Counts of Savoy, who kept a fleet of ships on Lake Geneva.

Chillon as a prison

During the 16th century Wars of Religion, the dukes of Savoy used the castle to house prisoners. Its most famous prisoner was probably François

de Bonivard, a Genevois monk, prior of St. Victor in Geneva and politician, who was imprisoned there in 1530 for defending his homeland from the dukes of Savoy. Over his six-year term, de Bonivard paced as far as his chain would allow, and the chain and rut are still visible.

Bernese period

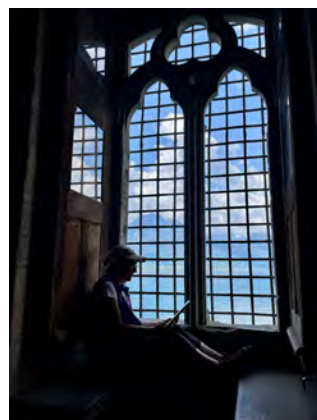
In 1536, the castle was captured by a Genevois and Bernese army, and all the prisoners, including de Bonivard, were released. The castle became the residence for the Bernese bailiff until Chillon was converted into a state prison in 1733.

Vaudois period

In 1798, the French-speaking canton of Vaud drove out the German-speaking Bernese authorities and declared the Lemanic Republic. The Vaudois invited in French troops to help them maintain autonomy from the other Swiss. When the French moved in and occupied, Chillon was used as a munitions and weapons depot.

From the end of the 18th century, the castle attracted romantic writers and inspired poets from around the world. By 1939, helped by its proximity to the popular tourist destination Montreux, the castle was attracting over 100,000 visitors a year. By 2005, this number had increased to 300,000.

Chillon remains open to the public for visits and tours on an entrance fee basis and is, according to the castle's website, "Switzerland's most visited historic monument". (*Wikipedia*)



Photos by Gabriel Dubler.





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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 Bööxli

Remember this ‘tongue-breaker’?

**De Papst het z’ Spiez s’ Speck-Bsteck
z’spoht bstellt.**

Translation: In Spiez (place in
Switzerland) the pope ordered the
speck (smoked pork belly) cutlery too
late.

Try and say it really fast! The wonders
of the Swiss language...





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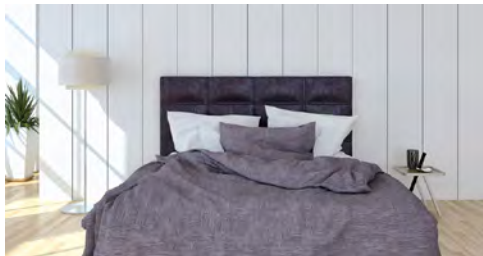
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1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023

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Visit by the Ambassador of Switzerland to Australia

On her first official visit to Queensland, Caroline Bichet-Anthamatten, Ambassador of Switzerland to Australia presented her credential to the Governor of Queensland, Dr Jeanette Young, in the presence of her husband Professor Nimmo and Hon Consul, Daniel Gschwind.



The Ambassador also met with Queensland Ministers, including Hon Stirling Hinchliffe, Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement; and Joe Kelly, Deputy Speaker of Parliament. It was an opportunity to also discuss the experience and capabilities in Switzerland in relation to pumped Hydro power, which is very much part of the Queensland government's future energy plans.



On the topic of renewable energy, the Ambassador had an opportunity of 'test drive' of the first of 60 electric carriages for the new Brisbane Metro, built by Hess Carrosserie in Switzerland.



With the IOC connection in Lausanne, the Ambassador also had a meeting with the newly appointed Kerry Petersen, Executive General Manager, Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Organising Committee.

At a number of functions, the Ambassador hosted members of the Swiss community, business leaders and researchers who are working with Swiss partners and other friends of Switzerland. In view of the significant partnerships between Swiss and Queensland universities, University of Queensland (UQ) Vice Chancellor, Professor Terry Deborah also hosted an event. Finally, the Ambassador was able to visit award-winning eco tourism destination, Lady Elliot Island, learning about their re-vegetation and climate change initiatives and drawing parallels with Switzerland's Swisstainable travel initiative.

Daniel Gschwind, Honorary Consul



Her Excellency Mrs Caroline Bichet-Anthamatten, at a function with members of the Swiss Club Queensland.



Swiss Walnut Christmas Cookies Recipe



Ingredients

For the cookies

2 egg whites

pinch of salt

225 g (8 oz) ground walnuts

150 g (1 cup plus 2 tablespoons) ground hazelnuts

200 g ($\frac{2}{3}$ cup plus $\frac{1}{4}$ cup) caster sugar

For the glaze

150 g (1 cup plus 1 tablespoon) icing sugar

1 $\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoon water

1 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon Kirsch

walnut halves to decorate

Oven temperature

All recipes state temperatures for a regular oven (i.e. a conventional oven without fan).

Whisk the egg whites with a pinch of salt until they are stiff.

If ground walnuts are not available where you live, simply place the same weight of whole walnuts in the food processor and blitz until they are finely processed.

Add the ground walnuts, ground hazelnuts and sugar to the egg whites, and mix everything together to form a sticky dough.

Roll the dough out between two sheets of baking paper until it is about 1cm thick.

Use a cookie cutter of your choice (e.g. flower, Christmas tree, star) and cut out your shapes, re-rolling the mixture as needed. As the dough is fairly moist and sticky, you might need to use a palette knife or spatula to lift the cookie shapes.

Place the shapes on a sheet of baking paper and leave them to dry for about 6 hours or overnight.

Preheat the oven to 180°C (350°F).

Bake the cookies for about 10–12 minutes, until they are lightly browned.

Cool the cookies on a wire rack.

Make the glaze by whisking together the icing sugar, water and Kirsch. Gently dip one side of the cookies into the icing mixture and let any excess icing drip off.

Place the iced cookies on a wire rack and decorate with a walnut half.

VARIATIONS

As a slight variation, you can also use ground almonds in place of the ground walnuts and ground hazelnuts.

photo by @eatlittlebird on Instagram

<https://eatlittlebird.com/swiss-walnut-christmas-cookies-baumnuess-guetzli/>





Season's Greetings
and Happy 2023
to our members, friends,
and their families.

The Committee of the
Swiss Society of Queensland

