

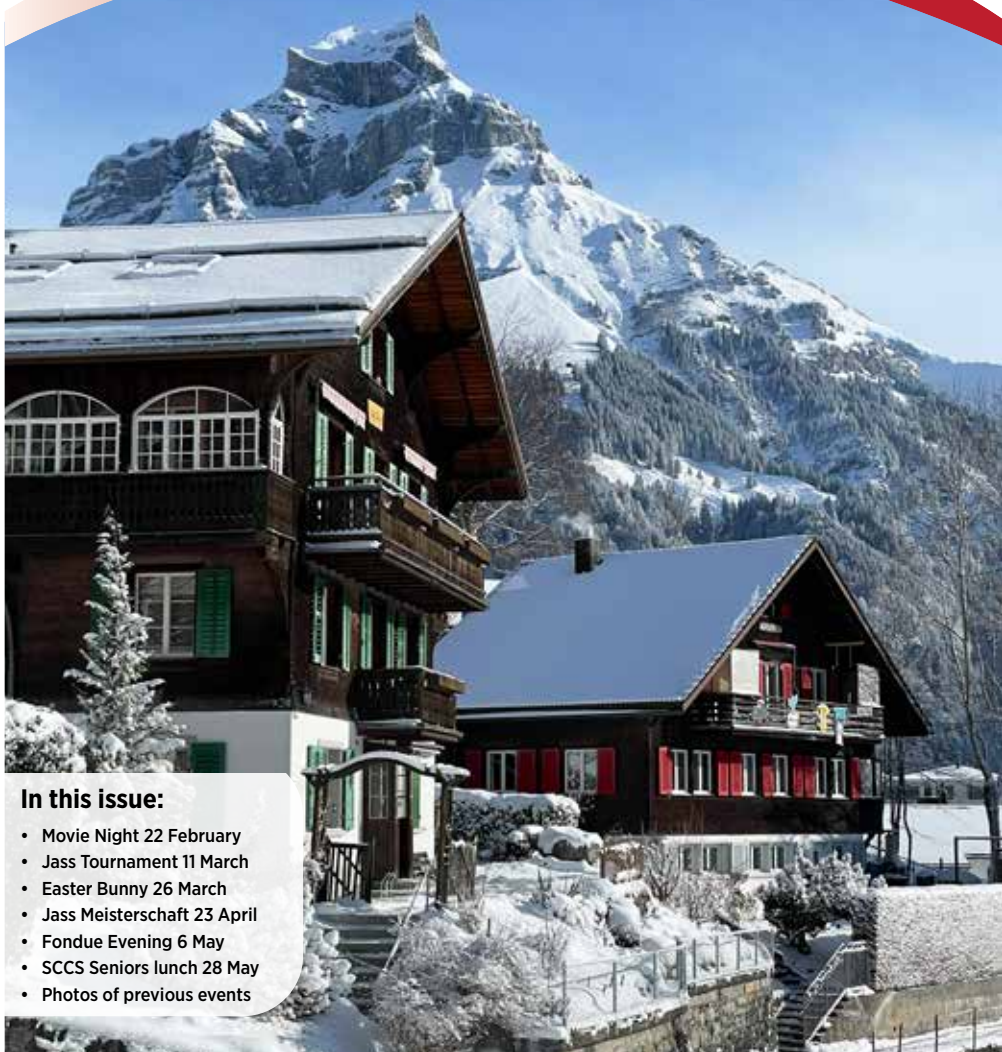


# SWISS

## news

Society of Queensland Inc

[www.swissclubqld.org.au](http://www.swissclubqld.org.au)



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- Jass Tournament 11 March
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- Jass Meisterschaft 23 April
- Fondue Evening 6 May
- SCCS Seniors lunch 28 May
- Photos of previous events



Postal Address: PO Box 3240, Newstead Qld 4006

[www.swissclubqld.org.au](http://www.swissclubqld.org.au)

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[info@swissclubqld.org.au](mailto:info@swissclubqld.org.au)

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<b>Jass Group</b> <a href="http://www.swissclubqld.org.au/jass-group/">www.swissclubqld.org.au/jass-group/</a>			
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	Ruth Milwright	0414 705 255	<a href="mailto:ruth.jasstournement@gmail.com">ruth.jasstournement@gmail.com</a>
<b>Other useful contacts</b>			
<b>Organisation of the Swiss Abroad</b> <a href="http://www.SwissCommunity.org">www.SwissCommunity.org</a>			
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<b>Honorary Consul, Brisbane</b> Daniel Gschwind 07 3236 1445 <a href="mailto:brisbane@honrep.ch">brisbane@honrep.ch</a>			
<b>Consulate General of Switzerland, Sydney</b> 02 8383 4000 <a href="http://www.eda.admin.ch/australia">www.eda.admin.ch/australia</a>			
<b>Swiss AHV/AVS</b> <a href="http://www.zas.admin.ch">www.zas.admin.ch</a>			
<b>Justice of the Peace</b> Élise Charrière (SSQ club member Brisbane) <a href="mailto:elise.charriere@gmail.com">elise.charriere@gmail.com</a>			

**Issue No. 1/2023**

On-line version:  
[swissclubqld.org.au](http://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.**

### **DISCLAIMER**

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

## **President's Report**



Dear members and friends,

I hope you all had an enjoyable and safe Christmas  
and New Years with your family.

I was fortunate to attend the 4th Biennial Oceania  
Swiss Club President's Conference which was held at the Embassy  
of Switzerland in Canberra last November, attended by Swiss club  
representatives from all across the state. I was joined by Cecile Scherrer  
of the Fraser Coast, Rita von Rotz from Swiss Community Care Society,  
Kevin Gates from the Yodel choir and Katja Wallimann Gates, our CSA  
delegate. The event was organised by the Swiss Alliance Australia and  
the CSA Oceania. It was wonderful to connect with other Swiss clubs  
and to hear what they are doing and how we can work together for our  
community. Thank you to Katja Wallimann Gate who helped organise  
the event! If you would like to read more about the conference itself,  
please read page 20 of the Swiss News and the full page report by SAA  
President Alain Staub: [www.swissallianceaustralia.org/events](http://www.swissallianceaustralia.org/events)

This month we have our Movie night coming up on Wednesday, 22  
February at the Anglican Church Hall. More information can be found on  
page 14. If you would like to attend, please rsvp to myself.

On Saturday, 11 March, the 2nd New Zealand and 12th Australian  
Combined Jass Tournament will be held at the Taranaki Swiss Club in  
Grace Avenue in Kaponga, Auckland. I wish all those attending a safe  
and enjoyable weekend and I look forward to hearing how it all goes.  
You can read more about the combined Jass Tournament on page 12.

We also have our Easter bunny event taking place on Sunday, 26 March  
at the Simpson Falls picnic area at Mount Coot-tha. Last year's event  
was a huge success with lots of smiles all around and lots of yummie  
chocolate eaten. Hopefully it won't be as hot as it is at the moment  
and the chocolates won't melt. If you are interested in attending, more  
information can be found on page 15.

On Sunday, 23 April, we have our annual Jass Meisterschaft at  
St Colomb's Anglican Church Hall, located at 23 Victoria Street,  
Clayfield with doors opening at 8.30am for a 9am start. See page 16.  
And don't forget to book for our popular fondue evening on 6 May.

I hope your year ahead in 2023 is a success filled with lots of  
opportunity and adventure. Please stay safe and I look forward to  
catching up with you all at our next event. If you have any questions  
and need to contact a member of the committee or a group, see our  
contacts list on page 2. Thank you to Alice for putting together a  
wonderful *Swiss News*.

I hope you enjoy all the beautiful photos from our previous events.

**Your President,  
Philippe Coquerand**

## DEADLINE for issue 2/2023 11 May 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

## A warm welcome to our new members

- Petra Viher and Antoine Schöni,  
Fortitude Valley

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 2).



Little Maya made headlines as 'one in eight billion' baby, as the world's population hit a historic eight billion on 16 November 2022, the day proud parents Franziska and Chris Newman welcomed Maya into the World. Franziska is the daughter of SSQ members Vreni and Beat Schoenenberger. Congratulations!

## New partnership between the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad and the Zürcher Kantonalbank

For Swiss citizens living abroad, it is often difficult to maintain a financial relationship with Switzerland. For this reason, the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad has been working for several years to find solutions. They are pleased about its new partnership with the Zürcher Kantonalbank, which offers attractive banking conditions for Swiss Abroad.

More info:

**www.swisscommunity.org/en/news-media/  
 swisscommunity-news/partnership-  
 organisation-of-the-swiss-abroad-zuercher-  
 kantonalbank?mibextid=5zvaxg**

# Swiss Community Care Society

[www.swissclubqld.org.au/swiss-community-care-society](http://www.swissclubqld.org.au/swiss-community-care-society)

<b>President</b>	To be elected	<b>Members</b>	Yvonne Ammann	0403 822 807
<b>Vice-President</b>	Marianne Bucher	0429 983 883	Hedi Bates	0438 071 042
<b>Secretary</b>	Luana Storni	0413 865 712	Florido Bizzozzero	0411 224 184
<b>Treasurer</b>	Anita Bickel	0457 457 211	Suzanne Dolle	0408 191 537
<b>Email</b>	<b><a href="mailto:care@swissclubqld.org.au">care@swissclubqld.org.au</a></b>		Rita von Rotz	0431 707 144
<b>Mail</b>	c/o Luana Storni, 303/77 Wheeler Street, Upper Mt Gravatt Qld 4122			

Our Christmas lunch was a great success; please refer to the photos on page 26/27.

We are very pleased to have a new member, with Yvonne Ammann joining the Swiss Community Care Society Committee at the last AGM. Welcome Yvonne!

The President's role is still vacant, but we now have a contender who offered to stand at the next AGM, more info to follow!

As always, if anyone needs any help, please don't hesitate to reach out to any of our committee members (see contact details above).

We look forward to seeing you all at our Senior Citizens Lunch in Buderim in May.

*The SCCS committee*



Your SCCS committee: (from left) Luana Storni, Rita von Rotz, Yvonne Ammann, Marianne Bucher, Florido Bizzozzero, Anita Bickel, (absent: Suzanne Dolle and Hedi Bates).

## Senior Citizens Lunch Buderim Sunday, 28 May 2023

**Where:** Headland Golf Course, Golf Links Road, Buderim Qld.

**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 2023

To Rita von Rotz: 0431 707 144 or  
Anita Bickel: 0457 457 211 or email:  
[care@swissclubqld.org.au](mailto:care@swissclubqld.org.au)

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





## *With Deepest Sympathy*

**Cornelia Oberlander-Lecarre**  
15 August 1942 – 26 June 2022



Cornelia's family migrated from Zurich, Switzerland to Australia in 1953. Cornelia was 10 years and 7 months old.

Her first three years in Australia Cornelia spent in Victoria. In October 1956 her father bought 17 acres of virgin land in Kallangur, Queensland.

Cornelia was educated primarily in Australia: In Kedron State High School, she obtained her commercial Junior Certificate (year 10), at TAFE Queensland her Senior Certificate (year 12), at Kelvin Grove College of Advanced Education her diploma as a primary school teacher. Beginning 1959 Cornelia started work as a secretary with the Queensland Government.

By mid-1959 her mother went back to Switzerland, taking Cornelia, 17, with her. After her mother returned to Australia a year later, Cornelia moved to the Ticino to learn Italian, working as a waitress. She then went to Paris to study French. She concluded her 3 years in Europe in Marseille looking after children in an orphanage run by nuns.

At the age of 19, Cornelia returned to Australia, found a secretarial job in Petrie, where she worked for the following 5 years. Her teaching career began with country service in the outback, in Aramac in central Queensland.

In 1970, whilst still recuperating from a long and unhappy love affair, she met and reluctantly married the French immigrant, Phillipe Lecarre. After Marcel was born in 1972, the family bought the house in Bray Park in 1973, where their two daughters, Jeanne in 1974, and Dominique in 1976, were born.

The happy years unfortunately ended in divorce and Cornelia went to live in Atherton with her children in 1982, to be near her father, to whom she had always been very attached.

Cornelia was a woman of character, courageous, strong-willed, and determined to keep her family together. Her positive thinking, infectious laugh and humorous attitude to life endeared her to her family and friends.

When her first grandchild was born in 1992 Cornelia was overjoyed. Her three children and eight grandchildren were Cornelia's pride and joy. She also loved dogs and cats, gardening, reading and, finally, playing cards with her friends and family.

Cornelia was always very proud of her Swiss heritage. She is sorely missed by her children, grandchildren, family, and her many friends.

### **Rest in Peace.**

I met Cornelia as a patient in the Royal Brisbane Hospital around 1996/97. She was an amazing lady. She spoke Swiss as though she would have just moved from there!

We started a 'May I' game club in 2018 (this game is a version of Rummy). I said to her, we should do a competition, who can teach the most people the game. She loved it and taught it to all her friends, her children and grandchildren.

We played every 2 weeks, with lunch. The game takes 2–3 hours. It was a lot of fun.

She told me a funny story, she had a job in an orphanage in France, the Sister told her something, she said "oui, oui", but when the Sister found, she said "no, no". She couldn't understand a word what they were saying.

I miss her a lot, she was a very good friend.

*Ruth Milwright*



Another perspective of the Hahnen, a mountain of the Urner Alps, overlooking Engelberg (see also cover photo). This magical Winter photo was supplied by Gabriel Dubler, thank you.

# Fraser Coast Group

[www.swissclubqld.org.au/fraser-coast-swiss-group](http://www.swissclubqld.org.au/fraser-coast-swiss-group)

**Cecile Scherrer**

Phone 07 4194 0105  
Mobile 0409 286 326

**Email [cecile.sch70@gmail.com](mailto: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 'Samichlaus'-Christmas celebration was held at Silvia and Emil's wonderful place. The 25 participants had discussions to vote for the cutest of the 17 Grittibaenzen. Some only a bit darker – not sunburnt – than others!

21 'Swaussies' enjoyed the 15 January lunch at Kondari Resort. Ongoing lunches on the 15th of each month. Info to follow as usual via email. Please come along whenever you visit the Fraser Coast.

MBS Maryborough Building Supply owner Ernst 'Ernie' Hug and occasional visitor to our group has recently passed away. Ernie and his brother Werner were well known business owners in Maryborough. May Ernie Rest in Peace (see his Eulogy on the next page).

Wishing you all a happy and healthy 2023 with more travelling possibilities.

*Cecile*







## *With Deepest Sympathy*

**Ernst 'Ernie' Hug**

**17 April 1930 – 25 January 2023**



Ernst – Ernie Hug was born as the 3<sup>rd</sup> child to Hans and Luisa Hug on 17 April 1930 in Schwellbrun, Appenzell, Switzerland.

Erni's brother Werner immigrated to Australia in 1950. On his journey to Australia, he met another Swiss family, their daughter Hanna became his wife. Werner was an Architect and had started building houses in Hervey Bay with his future father-in-law Robert Ammann, but Robert wanted to return to farming and started a Pineapple Farm in Dundowran.

Ernie followed in the footsteps of his brother Werner and immigrated to Australia between 1951 and 1953. Ernie and his brother Werner then formed "Hug Brothers' construction company" in the early 50s, in the late 50s Hug's Hardware was opened, which later became MBS (Maryborough Building supplies).

Ernie married Mary McAulay on 23 June 1956, in Maryborough.

In 1959 Ernie Hug was nationalised and became a true-blue Aussie.

Werner had to complete more studies to get his Swiss Architect Diploma accepted here in Australia, during this time Ernie was running the construction side of the company. Together they achieved great things, designing and building many commercial buildings and private homes in Maryborough and Hervey Bay.

One of their great legacies was the design and construction of the Rainbow Beach Hotel and a few years later some accommodation was added.

I recall Ernie saying "everybody thought we were crazy, because there was nothing in Rainbow Beach at the time".

They proved everybody wrong in having great foresight.

In the 80s the Hug brothers decided to go their separate ways, I believe Werner moved south with his family and Ernie stayed in Maryborough with his wife Mary.

Ernie's niece Sue mentioned to me that he loved fishing and crabbing and used to take her and her siblings to Toogoom.

Ernie also had a passion for horseracing, having a punt gave him great satisfaction. One thing I remember him saying "never ever punt to make money, all these people saying I am winning, are not honest to themselves". He kept strict record of his wins and losses, he would only punt a certain amount every week over a 30-year period, (he showed me that little booklet many years ago). He said "some years I am a few hundred dollars ahead and other years behind, in the long run it is an interest, but not a money maker".

His other passion was smoking and he didn't believe that it causes cancer, he was living proof of it – at least in his case it worked. Nobody would know better than Peter Kluytenberg and his wife Tina, Ernie and Mary's Managers at MBS. They have been available 24/7 for some years for Ernie and Mary. Ernie and Mary were most grateful for all their help and assistance. Thank you, Peter and Tina!

### **Rest in Peace.**

*Hanspeter Baumann*

*PS. I would like to say thank you very much to Sue (Ernie's brother's daughter). Thank you very much Sue, I could not have compiled this text without your help.*

# Jass Group

[www.swissclubqld.org.au/jass-group](http://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

<b>January</b> 4, 18	<b>February</b> 1, 15	<b>March</b> 1, 15, 29	<b>April</b> 12, 26	<b>May</b> 10, 24	<b>June</b> 7, 21
<b>July</b> 5, 19	<b>August</b> 2, 30	<b>September</b> 13, 27	<b>October</b> 11, 25	<b>November</b> 8, 22	<b>December</b> 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 combined 2nd NZ/12th Australian Jass Tournament on 11 March 2023 in New Zealand. We will keep you posted about the results!



The Jass group had their Christmas BBQ at the end of November in Bulloky Rest on Lake Samsonvale. Invited were also all the partners from the players. We had a great time together, for once there was no Jass but other games, lots of laughter and very good food. *Rita von Rotz*



Are you sweating through the Qld Summer right now? Cool down with some of these beautiful Winter photos sent in by Gabriel Dubler, who was lucky enough to visit Switzerland this January!







# 2023 Jass Tournament

## The 2<sup>nd</sup> New Zealand & 12<sup>th</sup> Australian Combined Jass Tournament

will be held on

# Saturday March 11, 2023

at Taranaki Swiss Club,  
Grace Avenue, Kaponga

Registration information will be in the next issue of Helvetia.  
Cost will be \$30 per person – includes lunch.

*The format will be the same as the New Zealand Swiss Society competition and additionally you will be able to play obenabe and undenufe.  
No extra points for Stock, Wys or Match.*

***Following expression of interest (by mid-January 2023),  
registration information will be emailed.***

***This is being held on Taranaki Anniversary Weekend so book your accommodation early.***  
*If you are travelling to NZ from Australia, you can fly into Auckland, Wellington (both in the North Island) (or Christchurch, South Island) international airports, and catch connecting internal flights to New Plymouth (1 hour drive (south) to Kaponga) or Palmerston North (2.5 hours drive (north) to Kaponga). There are various motels within 30-60 minutes of Kaponga in Eltham, Stratford, Hawera and New Plymouth. Campervans will be welcome to park in the Swiss Club grounds at no charge – please book a space though, so we can make sure everyone fits.*

On Saturday evening there will be a prizegiving dinner at an extra cost of around \$40-60pp (this will be confirmed closer to the time), followed by Swiss musical entertainment.

For information, contact **Marlies and Othmar Hebler**  
email [heblers@extra.co.nz](mailto:heblers@extra.co.nz)

Phone 06 278 6878 / 027 828 9014

Payment (after registration confirmation) can be made to: O & M Hebler, 15 3951 0400353 80



## Second NZ and 12<sup>th</sup> Australian Combined Jass Tournament Kaponga 2023

Kaponga Swill Club Hall  
Grace Avenue  
Taranaki  
New Zealand

**Saturday 11 March 2023: Start time 8am**

### Tournament Registration Form

Player details (one form per participant)

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Given name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred name (name on badge): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

	No	Total \$
Player entry (includes lunch + coffee breaks) @ \$30.00		
Lunch for non players @ \$15.00		
Names of non players		
Dinner at Swiss club hall Kaponga + Musical entertainment @ \$40.00		
Name(s) for dinner		
<b>Total amount to be paid</b>		

Registration is now open, and closes by **20 February 2023**. Booking ASAP is much appreciated.

Please return completed form to **heblers@xtra.co.nz**

Booking confirmation will be forwarded by email upon full payment. Preferred payment method is internet banking :

O & M Hebler TSB Hawera 15-3951-0400353-80.

For Australians please add TSBANZ22 (zip code) in front

**Please add your name in the description so we can identify your payment.**

Kind regards, Jass coordinator Marlies Hebler  
13 Larlin Heights, RD 15 Hawera 4675. Mob 027 8289014



# Movie Night

Wednesday, 22 February 2023

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.

**Movie: The Great Swiss Post Office Robbery.** In 1997, a gang of amateur crooks made off with CHF 53 million after holding up Zurich's Fraumünster post office.

**Date:** Wednesday, 22 February 2023

**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](mailto:prcoque@gmail.com)



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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](http://www.Germanwithkids.com)

[www.facebook.com/  
germanwithkids](https://www.facebook.com/germanwithkids)

# EASTER Bunny

Sunday, 26 March 2023



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, 26 March 2023

**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 \$10 each

**Bank transfer before the event preferred.  
Pre-paid bookings only.**

**EFT Direct Bank payment: Westpac,  
BSB 034-002, Account 708 120, Swiss  
Society of Queensland, with your name in  
the description.**

**RSVP:** By Sunday, 19 March 2023

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

**Bring:** Picnic, drinks, Easter hunt baskets

# Jass Meisterschaft Brisbane

Sunday, 23 April 2023



- Date:** Sunday, 23 April 2023
- 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
- Registration:** by Friday, 14 April 2023 latest
- Andy Gerber, phone 0419 76 2 131  
jasstournamentqld@yahoo.com
- Note:** Early registration is very much appreciated.  
Lunchers and socialisers should also book for catering purposes.



The 2022 Jass Meisterschaft group.



# Fondue Evening

Saturday, 6 May 2023

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



Please note: Pre-paid bookings only.

**Date:** Saturday, 6 May 2023

**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 Friday, 28 April 2023  
Nicole Berner, phone 0410 185 227,  
nicole.berner@yahoo.com.au

Payment required by Friday, 28 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.

**Ho Ho Ho!** Santa visited the Swiss Club children, young and old, what a joy!



*Thank you Rita Daniyel for the beautiful photos!*





Bye Santa, thanks for coming. Until next year!

# Council of the Swiss Abroad and Swiss Alliance Australia News



## NEWS

Happy new year from your representative for the Council of the Swiss Abroad. A lot was going on since my last article.

### CSA meeting online

I attended the Council of the Swiss abroad meeting at the beginning of November online. The main topic was the neutrality of Switzerland. The podium discussion with representatives of all major parties was very timely and interesting.

### Oceania Swiss Club President's Conference in Canberra

The Swiss Alliance Australia (SAA), in partnership with the Australian delegates to the Council of the Swiss Abroad and the Embassy of Switzerland in Canberra, hosted the 4th Biennial Oceania Swiss Club President's Conference in Canberra in November. The conference was open to all leaders of Swiss organisations in the region with the aim of strengthening the links between the representatives of the Swiss organisations in Oceania and providing a forum for information exchange.

The Queensland attendees were our Swiss Club president Philippe Coquerand, Cecile Scherrer from the Fraser Coast, Rita von Rotz from Swiss Care, Kevin Gates from the yodel choir and myself as your CSA delegate.

Please see [www.swissallianceaustralia.org](http://www.swissallianceaustralia.org) and click past events for a report of the conference, with minutes and photos.

### Federal elections

2023 is going to be an important year for federal elections in Switzerland. The Organisation of the Swiss abroad is putting together a list stating our most pressing issues

as Swiss living abroad, like voting, mobility, information and education. The list will be discussed at the meeting of the council of the Swiss abroad in March in Berne and will then be presented to the political parties. The potential candidates can then address the issues and enable you to make better informed decisions.

In Swissinfo you can find an interesting article and talkshow about the power of Swiss living abroad. [www.swissinfo.ch/ger/wirtschaft/die-macht-der-auslandschweizer-innen-im-wahljahr-2023/48189686](http://www.swissinfo.ch/ger/wirtschaft/die-macht-der-auslandschweizer-innen-im-wahljahr-2023/48189686)

### CSA meetings in Berne and St Gallen

The flights to attend the next two CSA meetings are already booked, in March in will have the opportunity to meet in the Bundeshaus in Berne and in August the Conference for the Swiss Abroad will be held in St Gallen.

### SAA Community Calendar

As a service to the Swiss community in Australia, the SAA has created an events calendar on the its website. Our aim is to provide the ultimate go-to place for anyone who is interested to find out about Swiss community events in Australia.

It is for all Swiss groups or individuals in Australia, irrespective whether they are members of the SAA or not. Everyone is welcome to post their non-commercial Swiss community event on this calendar free of charge. Go ahead and make it your own.

Information/questions:  
Roland Isler – [risler@csa-oceania.org](mailto:risler@csa-oceania.org)

Please don't hesitate to contact me for a chat, I am interested in hearing your input and help you as your delegate.

Kind regards  
*Katja Wallimann Gates, CSA delegate*



# '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**



Dear Swiss Friends,

## **Rudolf Steiner and Antroposophy**

Rudolf Steiner was born on 27 February 1861 in today's Croatia. He was born in a relatively poor family, where philosophy was unimportant. However, he studied environmental sciences, later literature and philosophy. Goethe and Nietzsche were great thinkers along his way. Steiner founded the Anthroposophical Society in 1912. The Goetheanum in Dornach, Switzerland became its centre.

Anthroposophy, the "wisdom about the human", is both 'view of the world' and 'way to knowledge', and it is influenced by spirituality. Steiner believed that he was able to see supernatural things, which enabled him to work in any area. He was philosopher, teacher, mystic, esoteric, scientist, dramatic adviser and architect. His work both fascinated and provoked people. His view of the world empowered him to give impulses in several areas of life. Three examples:

**Steiner school:** Rudolf Steiner started working as a private teacher. 1919, Emil Molt, a German factory owner, founded the 'Stuttgarter Waldorfschule'. The school should educationally support the children of the factory workers, independent of their social and financial backgrounds. Steiner takes on the pedagogical management. 34 more schools were founded until the beginning of WW2. In Switzerland, the first Waldorf School – also known as

*continued page 22*

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

Weekend  
in  
Brisbane  
Mo 21h – 22h  
Fr 9h – 10h  
Sa 11h – 12h  
Informed with Wikipedia and the 11-12h  
Programs are  
Produced by  
German 4EB  
and the 11-12h  
Programs are  
Produced by  
German 4EB



## 'Die Schweizerstunde' (The Swiss hour) continued from page 19

Rudolf Steiner School – was founded in Dornach in 1921. Today, there are approx. 30 schools in Switzerland and more than 1200 worldwide.

**Biodynamic agriculture:** Worried about their plants, animals and their own food, and inspired by Steiner's anthroposophical teachings, a group of farmers asked for his assistance in 1924. Steiner's lectures are classified as the beginning of biodynamic agriculture. His eco-pioneering principle: Agriculture should operate as a closed and balanced cycle. This means that a farm keeps only the number of animals that can be fed with the food grown on the same farm. In return, the animals provide the manure to sustain the plants on this farm.

**New approach to medicine:** Towards the end of the 1910s, Steiner together with medical doctors and chemists developed a new approach to medicine. Influencing part of the team was medical doctor Ita Wegman. The group was convinced, that the human body can heal itself, it just needs a bit of support from time to time. Hence, they developed medicine with natural ingredients designed to support the human body's healing mechanisms. In 1921 Steiner and Wegman founded the brand *Weleda*; the name is based on the Germanic medical priest and prophet Veleda.

Maria spoke about Rudolf Steiner and anthroposophy in her program on 4 February. If you missed it, you can re-listen here: <https://www.4eb.org.au/shows/german-language-group-sat/>

*"Die Schweizerstunde" sagt Danke für's zueloose.*

*Maria Steiner, Thomas Mühe and the German language program team*

## Gotthard Base Tunnel presentation at QUT in Brisbane



*From left: Daniel Gschwind, Honorary Consul for Switzerland, Queensland; Thomas Gut, Leiter Lifecycle Management und Erhaltung Gotthardachse, SBB AG; John Bensley, Associate Professor, MBA Director, QUT Graduate School of Business.*

The Consulate of Switzerland in Brisbane organised an interesting presentation on the Gotthard Base tunnel by Thomas Gut, Leader Lifecycle Management and Gotthard Line Maintenance, SBB AG, who visited the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) Graduate School of Business last November.

Swiss Society of Queensland members were invited to attend to gain information about this extraordinary project. Construction started in 1999 and it is in function since 2016. The 57km long double-tunnel carries freight and passenger trains and needs regular maintenance and equipment upgrades.

The presentation encompassed information about the size of the base tunnel; cost; speed of construction; efficiency of transport North-South; ecological point of view; difficulties of maintenance with equipment having various lifespan; difficulties to reach the equipment through the actual tubes; desire to build a 3rd tunnel for efficient maintenance access; and the use of the actual mountain line as a backup.



## Café Restaurant & Take Away

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wie in Oesterreich”**

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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](http://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**

**DID YOU  
KNOW?**

## Gotthard Base Tunnel

Switzerland can claim the longest rail tunnel in the world! The Swiss constructed two separate tunnels for each direction at 57 km a pop. To keep the tracks as level as possible, they had to drill 2300 meters below the mountain. This makes the Gotthard Base Tunnel the deepest tunnel on Planet Earth.

They have built two sections inside the tunnel where trains can change to the other one-way tunnel. This can be used in emergencies or when an issue causes one tunnel to be out of operation.

The deepest point of the tunnel is 2.3 kilometers below Piz Vatgira – that's 1.5 times the depth of the Grand Canyon as seen from the rim!

20 minutes is how long a trip through the tunnel takes. 28.2 million tons of rock was excavated from the Alps over the years. In a clever move, the engineers “recycled” most of the rock and returned it to the inside of the mountain as concrete. The rest was used to level the mountainous terrain, and the rest of the rest to create three artificial islands in Lake Uri. 2400 workers were simultaneously involved in digging Switzerland's tube. Most of the Swiss population was unaware of the Herculean efforts going on every day for 17 years.

The **Swiss Community Care Society Christmas lunch** was a huge success, with great company, delicious food and singing!







*Before the lunch, there was business to attend to: the Swiss Community Care Society Committee AGM.*



*Beautiful photos by Gabriel Dubler, thank you!*

## Hahnen mountain in Engelberg, Switzerland

The Hahnen is a mountain of the Urner Alps, overlooking Engelberg in the Swiss canton of Obwalden. It has an elevation of 2,606 metres above sea level.

Engelberg (mountain of angel) is a village resort and a municipality in the canton of Obwalden in Switzerland. Engelberg is a major mountain resort in Central Switzerland. In the Middle Ages, Engelberg was known for the educational quality of its Benedictine monastery, Engelberg Abbey. From the 19th Century onwards Engelberg became internationally known as a mountain resort, but it is today visited as much for skiing as for its Alpine character. With its combination of modern snow and sports facilities and alpine location, Engelberg is popular today for both summer and winter tourism. The nearest large city is Lucerne.

*Photo by Gabriel Dubler, thank you!*



*Taste the flavours of Europe!*



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## The Joke Bööli

- My wife is really mad at the fact that I have no sense of direction. So I packed up my stuff and right.
- What did the tomato say to the other tomato during a race? *Ketchup!*
- What did the salt say to the pepper on Christmas? *Seasonings greetings.*
- Why can't a leopard hide?  
*Because he's always spotted...*
- Why is Swiss cheese the official dairy product of the Vatican?  
*It's the holiest of cheeses.*

### And you know you're Swiss when...

- You spit out Belgian chocolate in disgust.
- You make reservations to see a movie.
- You think spontaneity is OK, but only if it's planned.
- You talk to your garden gnomes.
- You make an appointment to do your own laundry in your apartment building.



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# Catching up at the SSQ brunch

The SSQ brunch last November was well attended and members enjoyed the yummy food and catching up. Happy smiles!

