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The Ambassador of Switzerland

Canberra, 5th May, 1993

Dear Compatriotes,

Are we not all a little bit proud, when a Swiss wins a gold medal at the Olympics? Did we not all cheer the "Spirit of Bienne II", when it won the "World Solar Challenge" in 1990? Well, in a few months from now, on 7th November, 1993, "our" Swiss team from Bienne will again be at the runway in Darwin, ready to defend the title against some 70 odd other competitors. We shall know it about five days later, in Adelaide, how it will have suffered.

Following our Australian friends, who tend to spur up their sport idols long before the events, let's do likewise for our high tech champions from Bienne.

With kind regards and best wishes, I am

Your Ambassador

Peter M. Niederberger

Dear Readers, dear Editors of the Swiss Club News

By now I am sure all of you are used to the new look of the "Local Communications" of the Swiss Review.

With the new look I would also like to bring some fresh wind into the magazine by asking all readers — not just the Editors of the Swiss Club News — to participate with articles they think the Swiss community in Australia would be interested in. Perhaps you wish to share with your compatriots experiences you had with visitors from Switzerland (friends of friends of a cousin . . .) who stayed for weeks and months or maybe you let us have a poem of yours . . . I have received a lovely story entitled "A Swiss woman's life in Australia" via the Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad in Berne. You find part of the story in this issue.

It is understood that there is limited space and the Clubs have priority. But I shall no longer call certain Clubs in order to receive their news but give the readers the extra space once the deadline is up.

Are you interested in taking part? Please call me (I am Beat Moser, Consul and Chancellor at the Swiss Consulate General in Melbourne and — amongst other things — responsible for the Australian edition of the Swiss Review) on (03) 867 2266 or send your article by fax (866 5907) or by mail (P.O. Box 7026, Melbourne 3004). The deadline for the next issue is the

16th August 1993.

(Clubs' programmes Nov. 93-Jan. 94) following deadline is 18th October 1993 (programmes Jan.-April 1994)

I sincerely hope that we shall have local communications that interest people and will be read.

Looking forward to working with you all, I remain with kind regards

Beat Moser

World Solar Championship 1993

Since winning the World Solar Championship in 1990, held in Australia, the solar and light-electromobil-technology of Switzerland is leading worldwide.

In November the team of the Engineering School of Biel will defend its pool position in the solar race between Darwin and Adelaide.

Even though the Chief Engineer René Jeanneret characterises the improvements made since 1990 as small steps, the "Spirit of Biel/Bienne III" is secretly kept under cover.

Besides the application of more efficient solar cells and the development of a special scooter wheel for the "Spirit of Biel/Bienne III", important changes were made in regards to its weight and aerodynamic.

The main sponsor SMH (Swatch), who keeps certain rights on the vehicles' technique, shares the estimated costs of 3 million Swiss francs with several participants on government level.

The goal of the government contribution is to make sure that the technical progress of the "Spirit" goes along with the environmental education of the mobil society.

Peter Bachmann

CONSULAR DISTRICT MELBOURNE

MELBOURNE

Swiss Club of Victoria

89 Flinders Lane
MELBOURNE 3000

On 17th March, 1993 the Swiss Club's Annual General Meeting was held and Primo Calabresi retired as President. The members attending the meeting put their trust in me to lead the Club as President for 1993-94.

On 3rd April at the Club we had the honour of meeting the new Ambassador, Mr P. Niederberger and his wife, and we were fortunate to have present on this occasion the Aargauer Turmblaeser who entertained us with fine music.

I would personally like to thank Mr P. Niederberger and Mr L. Renggli, our hosts for the evening.

On behalf of the Swiss Ball Committee 1993, I would like to invite you and your friends to celebrate our National Day on Saturday, 31st July, 1993 at the Albert Banquet Centre, South Melbourne.

There are many other functions planned for 1993 and I want to encourage you to come and enjoy an evening in the friendly atmosphere at the Club.

Restaurant Hours

Tuesday	11.30-4.30 p.m.
Wednesday	11.00-midnight
Thursday	11.00-midnight
Friday	11.00-midnight

Tuesday and Saturday open for group bookings and club functions only. For further information please phone Monica on 650 1196.

Klaus Sieber

Function Calendar

Saturday	31.7.	National Day Ball at Albert Banquet Centre
Sunday	8.8.	National Day Picnic at Gembrook
Saturday	28.8.	Fondue Night
Wed.	1.9.	Ladies' Luncheon
Saturday	18.9.	Jass Abend Swiss Club — Final
Wed.	22.9.	Half Yearly General Meeting
Saturday	9.10.	Chilbi
Friday	22.10.	Oktoberfest
Sat.	23.10.	at Melbourne
Sunday	24.10.	Showgrounds
Wed.	10.11.	Ladies' Luncheon
Friday	13.11.	Helpers' Party



You are all invited to spend a wonderful time with
Raclette, Bratwurst, Kaffee and Nussgipfel
 and of course entertainment and a bonfire
 at the

National Day Picnic

on Sunday, 8th August, 1993
from 11 am onwards
at Gembrook Sportsground
 — free entry —
 (Melway — Map 1899 — D-8)

Saturday Morning Swiss School

The first two terms of the 1993 school year are already behind us. We have currently 24 children attending. The boys and girls are between six and 12 years old and meet fortnightly at the Swiss Club, 89 Flinders Lane. There are no fees charged for attendance, but the parents take it in turn to provide drinks and snacks at morning tea time.

The Saturday Morning Swiss School provides an opportunity for the children to learn about multicultural Switzerland, its customs, music, geography, history and everyday life. The many activities like art and craft, painting and singing, as well as bushwalks and picnics — including a trip to the snow — keep everybody on their toes!

There are still children out there in the Swiss community who are missing out. We are not a "language school", but a "Children's Activity and Fun Group". Why don't you come and see for yourselves?

For more information, please contact either our Convenor, Mr. Pier Fasnacht on tel. 435 4354 (home) or Teacher, Mrs. Brigitte Staub on tel. 438 3154 (home).

Young — and young spirited Swissies, where are you?

The Swiss Club of Victoria is holding a "Cocktail Party" on the 8th October, 1993 at the Swiss Club in Flinders Lane, and warmly extends an invitation to members and non-members to come along for a great evening of socialisation and merriment.

It is especially an event to welcome new faces of the younger generation to join in and to get to know each other better. The Founders have developed a most unique Club in Victoria and are in agreeance that the time is ripe to encourage the younger generation's involvement.

For those of you who have not been to the Swiss Club, why not take advantage of this Fun Evening to experience the Club's genial atmosphere, to meet up with like-minded people with a common heritage.

Come at 8 pm Friday, the 8th October, 1993 to the Swiss Club at 89 Flinders Lane, member or non-member — see you there.

If you have any questions, please call Markus Helsing on bus. (03) 654 7714 or P. (03) 572 2649, or Monika Horisberger on (03) 867 2266.

Markus Helsing, Vice-President

Swiss Society of Victoria

The oldest continuous Swiss Organisation in Australia is the Swiss Society of Victoria. Founded in 1879, it has the following aims:

- (a) To give advice and information to those of Swiss nationality newly arrived, and to assist any Swiss in Victoria in want of help and found worthy to receive assistance.
- (b) To promote a national spirit and feeling of good fellowship amongst the Swiss residents of Victoria.

Over the years, a great number of Swiss have been assisted and even in today's era of relative prosperity help is often required.

Although the Society remains in a healthy financial state, it is still important to perpetuate and further the interest in it amongst the Swiss in Victoria. However, a membership of a mere 70 as it is at present is ashamedly low, and I appeal to you to consider joining. Membership costs a very nominal \$3 per year.

For further information contact:

H. Frei, Secretary/Treasurer
 G.P.O. Box 2477V
 Melbourne 3001, or the Consulate General of Switzerland

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PERTH

Swiss Club of Western Australia

P.O. Box 328
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Tel. (09) 293 1765

The Swiss Club of Western Australia organises a variety of social, recreational and cultural activities throughout the year. Swiss and non-Swiss are cordially invited to join. Application forms are available from the secretary or any member of the committee.

After a delightful Fondue and Raclette Dinner in May and the Metzgete in June, we now concentrate on further improvements on our club property in Gidgegannup. The barbecue area is set up to cater for a large number of helpers during our busy bees in the coming months, and we hope to see you all there!

Every first Wednesday of the month, from 7 pm, a social get-together is held at the

The Trachtengruppe Schwyzerguess

would like to invite retired Swiss citizens (over sixties) to a "Fahrt ins Blaue" — Surprise coach trip on Wednesday, 3rd November 1993, all for the cost of \$15.00, hot lunch included. Of course, this invitation also extends to non-Swiss husbands accompanying their wives.

If interested, please fill in the coupon and send it with your cheque to:
 Anni Rutishauser, 13 Gridgee Court, Forest Hill 3131 Tel. 878 6152.

Name: Age:

Address:

Phone: Number of persons:

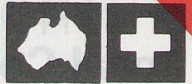
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Palm Terrace Restaurant/Bistro, 241 Canning Highway, Como. This gathering represents an ideal opportunity to meet informally while enjoying a delicious Swiss meal. Everyone is welcome.

Elisabeth Weber

Coming Events:

- 1.8. 1st August Family Picnic/
Bonfire, Rolling Green,
Gidgegannup
- 7.8. 1st August National Day
Dance, Rhein Donau Club,
Myaree
- 22.8. Busy Bee and Picnic, Rolling
Green, Gidgegannup
- 19.9. Annual Picnic, Rolling
Green, Gidgegannup
- 10.10. El Tropo Golf Classic,
Lancelin
- 30./31.10. Camping and Busy Bee,
Rolling Green, Gidgegannup
- 5.12. Samichlaus Celebration,
Pelican Point, Crawley

Swiss Radio Perth

Radio 6EBA-FM 95.3 MHz
7.30 pm to 8 pm every Tuesday. Tel. (09)
227 5958 during the programme. This
Swiss-German radio programme features
news, information and plenty of music from
Switzerland. The programme has now
expanded and includes a French segment
every second Tuesday of the month.

CONSULAR DISTRICT SYDNEY

Swiss Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

A.C.N. 002 894 448

SWISS BALL 93

Once again, Swiss Australian Chamber of
Commerce and Industry (SACCI) in Sydney
will be organising the famous SWISS BALL
to celebrate Swiss National Day. The ball
will be held on Saturday, 31st July, 1993 at
Manly Pacific Parkroyal Hotel at 7 pm. For
information call SACCI, phone (02)
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Vice-présidente: Véronique Macherel
Tél. 81 3230

Sorties prévues pour la période août-
novembre 1993): Le 20 août 1993:
assemblée générale

Le 7 novembre 1993: Barbecue Romand

Le 27 novembre 1993: Rallye automobile
organisé avec le concours du Swiss Club of
NSW.

Claude Middleton

The Swiss Yodlers of Sydney

Swiss National Day Picnic — Sunday,
22.8.1993 (not 15.8.1993) as usual at
Plumpton. We look forward to seeing you
there.

25th Anniversary Celebrations

We are 25 and going strong!

We would like you to celebrate with us
at the Willoughby Town Hall on Saturday,
23rd October, 1993.

This promises to be **the** Swiss event of
the year. We have secured the participation
of the Swiss Yodlers of Auckland NZ, the
Volkstanzgruppe and the Laendlerkapelle,
both from Melbourne. The immensely
popular Lustigen Oberkrainer will invite to

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dance and, of course, a hot dinner will be served.

For more information on either event ring 416 8516 or 481 9143.

New members are welcome! Please look us up at practice, Mondays from 8 pm, at the Concordia Club, 231 Stanmore Road, Stanmore — or ring 481 9143.

QUEENSLAND

Swiss Society of Queensland Inc
P.O. Box 902
Holland Park West, Qld. 4121
President: Marlies Lyman, (07) 397 8359

Our current President, Marlies, has notified the Committee that she will not stand for another term, so please come to the AGM to nominate and elect a new President and Committee.

The Swiss Society of Queensland, together with the Swiss Community Care, would like to invite our Senior Citizens to the very popular outing to Maleny. Please contact us or the Swiss Community Care for details.

The second Gruempeltturnier is only weeks ahead, so pull your soccer socks up and phone Thomas on (07) 285 4818.

In mid-October we will have a great night out, so keep these dates free.

Our next functions are:

- 28.8. AGM
- 12.9. Senior Citizens Day
- 26.9. Gruempeltturnier
- Oct. Dance Night

For information about our popular winter (wanderige) bushwalks, call Pius on (07) 369 7066.

Are you interested in a game of tennis, or Jass, call Hans on (07) 844 6529.

For further details please refer to the Swiss News of Queensland or give us a call.

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Peter Weidemann

A Swiss woman's life in Australia

Two apple trees in a meadow, a zeppelin going past the window, tobogganing down a hill on a windy night, and a broken bottle of schnapps. These are the few memories a proud woman has of her childhood in Switzerland.

Elsy Baguley was born in St Gallen, Switzerland, but has spent most of her life in Australia. Growing up her family life was decidedly European, but 65 years after leaving Switzerland, how much has she really left behind?

Elsy was born on 14th June, 1920 to Karl Baumgartner and Elsa (nee Schlaepfer). In 1926 her family migrated to Australia, leaving behind friends and relatives but taking with them their culture and values.

Although Elsy only has a few memories of Switzerland she has not forgotten her Swiss roots. "I'm still proud of that heritage, it's part of your life. I've always felt Swiss."

Her home by the beach, about three hours from Sydney, holds many memories of the past. A St Gallen canton leadlight insignia hangs by the window, a tenuous link with her birthplace. The cuckoo clock on the wall carried all the way from Switzerland, a constant reminder of what she has left behind, and yet is still very much a part of. Family photos cover the walls, including two very austere looking pictures of her grandfather and grandmother. A traditional Swiss trinket box with keepsakes from all over Switzerland hangs on the living room wall, another testament to her identity.

Although Elsy has absorbed so much of the Australian culture, she retains many of the traditional Swiss ways that will always be a part of her strong personality. When asked what is the "most Swiss" part of Elsy, her younger brother Paul smiles wryly. He replies, "Her cooking. She makes a great rosti. And her potato salad is just like Muttie made it. It has vinegar and oil, no mayonnaise like a Australian potato salad."

Elsy's three sons, Peter, Paul and Ronnie, although very much aware of their mother's heritage, were not brought up in a typically Swiss environment, but Australian. It is easy to see just how entrenched Elsy is in her Australian lifestyle through her sons.

The few remaining memories of Switzerland seem to capture the essence of Elsy's identity. She does not remember the bigger picture and the tangible elements, but holds onto the little details and the fleeting moments. "I don't remember much of where I was born or St Gallen itself. All I remember is two apple trees down in the paddock there. I had to go and get my needles and it was up in one of those old places, and after I had had it, we were coming down the stairs, I looked out and there was this big zeppelin, going past the window. It was really low. I'll always remember that, it's one of my most vivid childhood memories. I can also remember tobogganing down that hill on a windy night with Papa coming home." Similarly, she doesn't at first appear to be typically Swiss, but she carries the little habits and details of her native country, just like her memories.

Leisl Baumgartner

To be continued



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