

Zeitschrift: Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad
Herausgeber: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
Band: 42 (2015)
Heft: 5

Anhang: Regional news : Southern Africa

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REGIONAL NEWS

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Editorial

Dear readers,
Did you know that only a quarter of Swiss living abroad are registered to vote in Switzerland? Many do not bother voting because they think their vote would not make a difference. But it does, as results of votes are often close. Voting is becoming easier as most cantons start offering electronic voting for Swiss abroad.

Happy reading,
Gisela Piercey



GISELA PIERCEY,
EDITOR SWISS REVIEW
SOUTHERN AFRICA

'Off the grid'

The Embassy of Switzerland in Pretoria celebrated the 724th National Day on 31 July, at the Residence of the Swiss Ambassador.



The wind was chilly, the alpenhorn was blowing, red and white colours adorned the venue and the scene was set for celebrating the Swiss National Day. The sponsors on board are Oryx Energies, Glencore, Schindler, Swissport, Zurich, ABB, Endress & Hauser, Lindt & Sprüngli, Nestle as well as Novartis. About 350 people attended the reception; they were from the SA Government, Swiss companies, academia, foreign diplomatic missions and NGOs that have participated in the Embassy's activities throughout

the year. The event started with the Chamber Choir of Lebone II College of the Royal Bafokeng, under direction of Mr. Bragi Þór Valsson, singing both the Swiss and the South African anthems, followed by speeches from Ms. Carine Carey, Chargée d'affaires a.i. of Switzerland, and Director General in the Dept. of Transport, Mr. Pule Selepe, as the representative of the SA Government. After the formal proceedings the guests enjoyed a Raclette, made in front of open fires, because this year's event was conducted "off the grid" as an expression of solidarity with South Africa. Besides the fires, gas and batteries, only electricity generated by the Residence's photovoltaic installation, which produces 23kW/h, was used..

Philippe Strub and Katlego Mokoma

Consular visit in Namibia

The Consulate General in Cape Town will be hosting consular days in Windhoek from 22-24/02/2016.

Swiss Citizens will be able by appointment to apply for a passport and

consular business. Should you decide to apply for a new passport, your physical presence will be necessary in order to take the biometric data. You can also attend to these formalities during your visits to Switzerland in any passport office.

As most have a waiting list, the Consulate has to contact the passport office before you can make an appointment. You will hear more about our visit soon. Therefore please make sure that the Consulate has your new address and current e-mail so that you will not miss the info.

Pictured: Deputy Head of Mission, Carine Carey toasting with Director General in the Department of Transport, Mr. Pule Selepe.

The Choir singing both the Swiss and South African national anthems.

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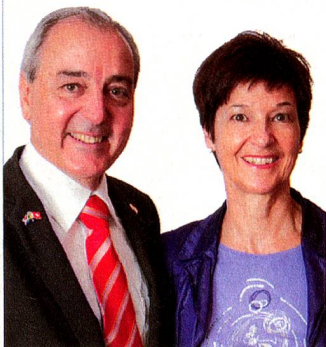


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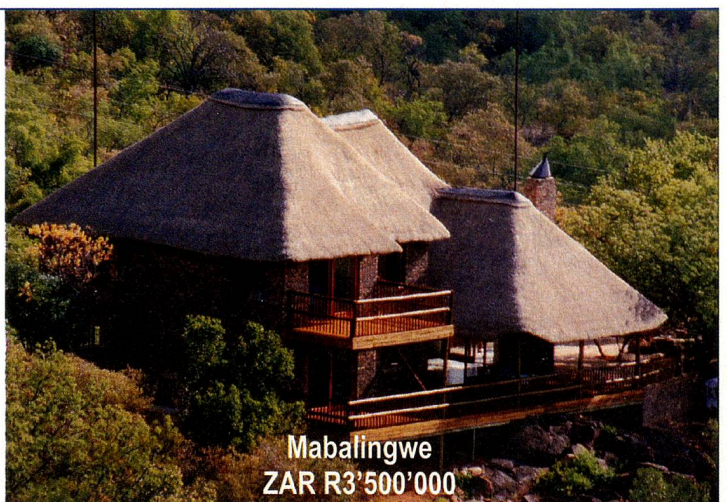
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Swiss Club Info

SWISS CLUB IN JOHANNESBURG: Swiss Society Helvetia, 31 Moerdyk Ave, Vorna Valley, Midrand, Chairman: Mario Valli, 082 451 8040; office: Debora Wolf, T/F 0118053039, C 0826516152, office@swissclubjhb.co.za,

www.swissclubjhb.co.za, Swiss Country Club Rest. «The Courier», Wolfgang Wollauz, T/F 0118053040, C 0825610063, Tue-Sat 11-21h30 Rest./kitchen, 11-24h Bar, Sun 10-17h, T/F 011 805 3040, C 082561 0063, www.dining-out.co.za «The Courier» Our Clubs of Society: Afro Gugge, Amicale Suisse Romande, Boccia, Skittling Club. Associated Groups: Swiss Choir, Swiss Rifle Club, Swiss Golf, G.S.N.A. Senior Swiss Circle meets every 2nd Saturday of the month for Lunch. Swiss Ladies meet every 4th Thursday of the month for lunch; Swiss Rifle Club Johannesburg: We shoot every 4th Sat of the month, from 9am. We normally shoot two different programs, with Swiss rifles, provided by the club. Visit our Facebook site or call Daniel: 082-5699146. **SWISS CLUB IN PRETORIA:**

Swiss Society Alpina, Hans-Georg Bosch, President, T 0123478310, C 0825510222, swissclub.pta@hbosch.com, Biffy van Rooyen, Secretary Facebook group: Swiss Club Alpina. On 1 August, we held our National Day Celebration at the Church Hall of the Johannesgemeinde. It was a successful event with lots of club members and guests. The Deputy Head of Mission, Ms Carine Carey addressed the gathering. After the address by President S. Sommaruga, the National Anthem was sung. As is every year, the Swiss Choir entertained the gathering with their wonderful renditions. The next event will be held on 3 October again at the Church Hall and will be our end of year function. Hans-Georg Bosch, President. **SWISS CLUB IN CAPE TOWN:** Swiss Social&Sports Club, Bill Peters Road, Green Point, www.swissclub.co.za. PRESIDENT : Stefan

Pflocksch, tefan@execsonthemove.co.za, T 021 715 2703, C 082 920 9351. VICE PRESIDENT: Nicky Rodrigues nicky.rodrigues@za.sabmiller.com, T 021 658 7276, C 072 218 5759. SECRETARY: Marcie Bischof mwabischoff@telkomsa.net T 021 554 0176, C 082 925 2280. The club remains open every Wed and Thu for dinner. To receive the "newsflash" contact the club at catering@swissclub.co.za. Active sub-sections: Rifle Club, Cycling Club & Tennis Club. The ladies meet monthly – last Wed. Please contact info@swissclub.co.za or André Häberli, Membership & Advertising, Cell 076 933 03 04. Newsletter for regular updates: www.swissclub.co.za. **SWISS CLUB**

NATAL: President Philippe Lanz C 082 4932673, T 031 765 1625, p.lanz@absamail.co.za. JASS EVENINGS: Westville Country Club, Link Rd, Westville (first road on the left when travelling from the Pavilion exit towards Westville). As before the Jass evening takes place every second Friday evening of the month 18.00 for dinner.19.00 start Jassen: 11.9, 9.10, 13.11, 11.12.15 (Price Jassen) 9.01, 12.2, 11.3.16. TARGET SHOOTING: Dave Nicol Shooting Range, Nottingham Road, KZN Midland starting at 9.30 am: 26.9, 24.10, 28.11, 5.12.15. OTHER EVENTS: 6.9: Guided Tour Durban Botanical Gardens, 27.9: Visit Baynesfield Fair and Lunch, 11.10: Durban Green Corridor Guided Natur Trail/Lunch. 6.12.15: Year End Function with Father Christmas for the Kids, 23.1: Swiss Film Evening. 6.3.16: AGM For up-to-date information:

www.swissclubnatal.org.za. **SWISS CLUB PORT**

ELIZABETH: John Diener, President, PO Box 5608, Walmer 6065, T 0413792421, johndiener@bluewin.ch; comm.member Mark Krebsler C 0823214693, T w 0413671422; Heidi Schultes, secretary, C 0613696598. Our Consul Sabine Jenkins invited 30 of our members to an aperitif. Sabine and her husband Nick

were excellent hosts. Many Swiss took the opportunity and asked her about matters they needed some advice! AGM: As usual we met at Armin and Ella's place. Over 30 members came along. Yvonne Bruehwiler asked me to look for another Secretary as he was ready to retire. At the meeting we welcomed a new Swiss Couple: Ruedi and Heidi Schultes from Jeffreys Bay, Heidi is now our new secretary. Swiss National: We celebrated at the Eastern Province Veteran Car Club and had a very good turn out. John Diener. **SWISS CLUB EAST LONDON:** c/o Christine and Paul Stiffler, T 0437483542, C 0837008846, C 0832874324, christinestiffler@telkomsa.net.

SWISS CLUB FAR NORTH: Micael Holford

Contact Number Cell: +27 83 229 3787. Postal Address: Private bag X2465, Louis Trichardt 0920, Secretary: Suzanne Holford-Salchli Suzanne.holford@gmail.com. **SWISS CLUB IN NAMIBIA:** Rudolf Imhof, President, T+26461240598, C+264814427217, e-mail : er.imhof@iway.na, Yvonne Vorster, Vic President, T +264818527957, email: yvonne.mantle@hotmail.com. Honorary Consul General: Urs Gamma, Independence Avenue 175 / Gathemann Building, P.O.Box 9245 Windhoek. Tel.: 061 223853 Cell: 0816507075. e-mail: Windhoek@honrep.ch.

SWISS CLUB IN SWAZILAND: Ruedi Hofer, Calabash Rest., T (h) +2684161095, T (w) +2684161187, C +2686028545, calabash@swazi.net. **SWISS CLUB IN ZIMBABWE:** Oscar Rothen, 4 Blue Haze Lane, Umwinsdale, Harare (Physical) P.O. Box CH 837 Chisipite, Harare. C +263772241537, H +2634861702, lorthen@zol.co.za. **SWISS CLUB IN MAURITIUS:** Club Suisse de Maurice, Secrétariat: Alois Fürer, Comet Street 19, Roches Brunes, Beau-Bassin, T 466-2014.



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IMPRESSUM

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