

**Zeitschrift:** Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad  
**Herausgeber:** Organisation of the Swiss Abroad  
**Band:** 45 (2018)  
**Heft:** 1

**Anhang:** Regional edition : Oceania

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# REGIONAL EDITION

## OCEANIA

Next Submission Date:  
**2 March 2018**



**ROLAND ISLER**  
REGIONAL EDITOR | OCEANIA  
COUNCIL OF THE SWISS ABROAD | AUSTRALIA

### Editorial:

Dear friends and readers.

Happy New Year! I hope that 2018 be filled with good health, success, and lots of wonderful friendships and activities in your Swiss associations and beyond!

The «Swiss Review» is published six times per year. Four of those editions contain the «Regional Edition Oceania» pages. These pages are by the community, for the community. It is your opportunity to let people know about the activities of your club or association...

or perhaps you have an interesting story you would like share? Please get involved in making this «Regional Edition Oceania» a valuable, interesting source of information for our community. And remember, there is also the opportunity to have commercial advertisements published at reasonable cost.

Please take note of the following «Regional Edition Oceania» dates for the remaining issues for this year:

Issue	Editorial deadline	Publishing/mailout date
■ 2/2018	Fri, 2 March	Thurs, 29 March
■ 3/2018	Mon, 30 April	Mon, 28 May
■ 5/2018	Mon, 3 September	Sat, 29 September

Please submit your contributions by the above editorial deadlines to [risler@csa-oceania.org](mailto:risler@csa-oceania.org). I look forward to hearing from you!

## Portrait of the artist Hans Brüttsch



Johann Jakob Brüttsch 'Hans' was born on 27 May 1928 in Töss and grew up in Winterthur, Switzerland, with his parents and two younger sisters. In 1951, aged 23, Hans migrated to New Zealand and worked as a shepherd on farms around Auckland. He met and later married Fay Flynn in 1954. They lived in the Waikato on a farm where Hans worked as a shepherd.

Here they had their first child. In 1960 they moved to Auckland where they had bought property. Hans worked as a painter and decorator. In 1962 they had their second child.

In the 1970's Hans began painting landscapes and still life in oils, entirely self-taught. He painted in soft sepia tones, with delicate brushwork, painting farmland, sheep, cattle, seascapes and even steam trains. Hans' style was unique. He became



Mercury Island. Oil on canvas-board, 39.5 x 49.5cm

extremely popular and successful and was soon a full time artist selling to buyers in New Zealand and overseas. He also completed commissioned works. In Auckland Hans exhibited with the Downtown-Hilton, Courtneys and the International Art Centre. In the 1980s the family moved to Motueka where Hans painted prolifically, the stunning landscapes of the area. Here he exhibited with the Rutherford Gallery in Nelson. Two years later the family moved to Wanganui and Hans went on to paint the impressive North Island scenery.

Hans had a deep passion for the New Zealand landscape, his Swiss homeland and farming, which was evident in his paintings. He died on 27 August 2014, aged 86.

ROBIN BRÜTTSCH



In The Marlborough Sounds. Oil on board, 31 x 52cm

## Community News and Events

**PNG:** *moningstar* in Papua New Guinea  
Too many children in Papua New Guinea have no hope for a future worth living for. They grow up in the circle of the settlement life. Since 2016, *moningstar* has given the children opportunities to break out from that circle. The *moningstar*-team at Goroka meets with around 130 children weekly in the settlements and provides life-changing afternoons. In addition to the weekly programs, *moningstar* plans the second Kids Camp in April 2018. More information: [www.moningstar.org](http://www.moningstar.org)

### **NZ:** Hamilton Swiss Club

The Family Christmas function was held on Sunday 3 December with a good turnout of young and not so young. There were activities organised for the children including decorating Christmas biscuits, craft cards and participating in a Christmas story before Santa arrived to hand out gifts. Grilled Swiss sausages and lots of home-made baking were enjoyed by all. There was a huge raffle table thanks to everyone donating lots of interesting prizes.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

- 6-8/2:** Hosting a Swiss Folkgroup from Baar-Zug with 33 people.
- 7/2:** Hamilton Cosmopolitan Club, 7.30pm. Entertainment provided by the visiting group.
- 24/2:** 50 metre shooting competition for Swiss Society medals.
- 25/2:** Annual picnic. Newstead School.

### **NZ:** Taranaki Swiss Club

On 24 November our committee held a barbeque at the Club house. This was a very casual affair, with committee members and life members enjoying the meal, a drink or two and plenty of chatter with fun and laughter; a very nice social event for us to enjoy, after several busy functions.

The Christmas Shoot/Keglen was held on 26 November with a good crowd attending. Christmas activities were organised for the children, and the swings and basket were enjoyed by both children and adults! The shooting

range and the keglen alley were kept busy, and everyone enjoyed a pot-luck lunch before Father Christmas arrived. The children were all very attentive and were most polite when receiving their presents and lollies. Prize-giving for adults was then completed, with all participants going into the mystery prize draws. Many thanks, Mark, for organising another great day!

#### **Upcoming Events:**

- 1&15/2:** Keglen. 7.30pm.
- 11/2:** Annual Swiss Picnic. 11.00am. Plenty of activities, with the highlight being the Schwingen (for the young and the young at heart!). Plenty of food and drink available. The Trachtentanzgruppe Baar will be attending, so come along and have a terrific day!!!
- 1&15/3:** Keglen. Please call Heidi on 06 273 4286 for further information.
- 5/3:** Annual General Meeting, 7.30pm.
- 18/3:** Championship/Society Shoots. Please call Mark on 06 278 6266 for further information.

### **ACT:** Canberra Swiss Club

After a year of celebrations we look forward to a new interesting Canberra Swiss Club year. The committee is full of energy and ideas. We start the year with a film followed by the coast weekend in March (on the long weekend). It is always enjoyable to catch up with other members and friends. Book early! For the first time we will have a family picnic on Easter Saturday with an Easter egg hunt. Co cart racing and Ice Stock shooting were much loved first time events. Watch out for more interesting events in the newsletters or on our website <http://www.swiss.org.au/events.php?ID=4>

Do you love singing or playing cards? Twice a month the 'Crémschnitte Chörli' rehearses at the German Harmony Club. No auditions – your love to sing is what you have to bring. The National game Jass is played every fortnight. Contact the committee for details.

The Swiss Radio Program continues to air every Monday from 6 to 8pm on 91.1FM. The program is mostly in Swiss German. People are welcome to

be a guest and talk about their life or anything you think is interesting.

This is only the beginning. More will come later in the year. The committee looks forward to meet many of you at an event and wishes a happy, fulfilling and healthy new year.

### **NSW:** Swiss Yodlers of Sydney

We recently had the president of a Swiss-French Women's Yodler Choir visiting Sydney and our club was able to entertain her and relatives at an Aussie style BBQ. The neighbours enjoyed the alphorn and the singing. An enjoyable evening was had by all 21 who attended.

#### **Save the date:**

The 50th Anniversary of the foundation of the Swiss Yodlers of Sydney will take place over three days on the weekend of 28, 29 and 30 September this year. It will include a Gala Evening and Harbour Cruise as part of the program. Groups from interstate and overseas most welcome. Reasonable accommodation is available at the main venue. For further information, please contact the president Alois Kretz on [kretz@bigpond.net.au](mailto:kretz@bigpond.net.au) or Martin Scarpino on [scarpinom@gmail.com](mailto:scarpinom@gmail.com)

### **NSW:** Cercle Romand Sydney

The Cercle Romand is starting the new year with its famous brunch and boules tournament on the 4th of February at Clarkes Point Reserve, Woolwich; come and join us for lots of fun!

On 10/11/12 March we are going camping at Toowoong Bay, Central Coast.

For more informations go to [cercleromand.com.au](http://cercleromand.com.au) or Facebook @ **Cercle Romand Sydney** or contact us on [cercleromand@gmail.com](mailto:cercleromand@gmail.com)

### **NSW:** Swiss Rösti Clique

*Mir sind vo Sydney und suecht Drummler und Pfyffer. Chumm und mach doch mit. Bi eus gits kei Altersgrenze, alli si herzlich willkommen. Mir übe ei Mol im Monet im Centennial Park.*

The Swiss Rösti Clique of Sydney is looking for drummers and pipers (piccolo players). All ages welcome. We practise once a month in Centennial Park.

For more information, please contact Armin Umhang on 0431 891 454 or [arem@ouptlook.com](mailto:arem@ouptlook.com) or Peter Scheidegger on 0431 062 431 or [pscheide@bigpond.net.au](mailto:pscheide@bigpond.net.au)

### QLD: Swiss Society of Queensland

#### Upcoming Events:

**25/2:** Outing, details will be advised.

**4/3:** Tangalooma family day, contact Peter Zuend on 0488 738 371 or [bushwalker@swissclubqld.org.au](mailto:bushwalker@swissclubqld.org.au)

**8/3:** Movie night: 'Der grosse Sommer' (The great Sommer) starring Matthias Gnädinger.

**25/3:** Easter bunny, details will be advised.

### QLD: Fraser Coast Swiss Group

**Upcoming Event (Visitors to Hervey Bay and Maryborough area are very welcome to participate):**

**15/2:** Lunch from 11.30am and every following 15th of the month at Hervey Bay Hotel in Pialba.

For information, please contact Cecile Scherrer on 0409 286 326 or [cecile.scherrer@bigpond.com](mailto:cecile.scherrer@bigpond.com)

### SA: Swiss Club of South Australia

Thank you to everyone who was part of the Swiss Club of South Australia in 2017. We had an exciting year with so many new faces joining in the celebrations. We look forward to making 2018 even better. We welcome everyone at our 2018 events and all details will be made available on our website: [www.swissclubsa.com.au](http://www.swissclubsa.com.au)

To become a member or advertise in our newsletter please contact [swissclubofsa@gmail.com](mailto:swissclubofsa@gmail.com)

#### Our club membership fees are:

- Family (couple including children under 18 years) – \$50.
- Single (single persons or children over 18 years) – \$35.
- Pensioner / Country Couple – \$40.
- Pensioner Single / Country Single – \$25.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram @swissclubsa

### TAS: Celebrating the Swiss Heritage

For some years the traditional Swiss National Day was celebrated at the property of Ms Ann Chess at Layponia who was always the most congenial host. But now, Renata and Gradus Groenveld have taken over this event to be held at their property.

At this recent gathering everyone thanked Ms Ann Chess for her contribution in keeping the Swiss Spirit alive and her many years of hosting this event plus the work and generosity it takes to organise it.

The recent gathering was held on 22 October in Penguin, Tasmania, albeit sometime after the traditional Swiss National Day due to weather and circumstances. Still it was a most enjoyable warm sunny day where the guests participated in the traditional 'Cervelat Brötlete'.

If you would like to attend this once-a-year celebration, the Groenveld's can be reached on [renata.groenveld@bigpond.com](mailto:renata.groenveld@bigpond.com)

### VIC: The Matterhorn Yodel Choir

Our choir has concluded 2017 joyously by celebrating the Festive Season with two successful performances, together with the Companion Singers and the Swiss Folk Dance Group Alpenrose. These performances, organised by the Companion Singers at two nursing homes, have become quite a tradition and are very well received.

Our group meet in the evenings every second Wednesday. We are very happy to include new members any time. If you feel like coming along to see if you would perhaps like to join us, please call our conductor Chris 9754 7390 so we can advise you of practice session details.

#### Upcoming Event:

**24/2:** Jassabend, Horticulture Centre, Jolimont Road, Forest Hill, 8pm.

### VIC: Swiss Club of Victoria

The Committee of the Swiss Club of Victoria wishes you and your loved ones a very happy and healthy new year! May your 2018 be filled with joy, laughter and friendship.

#### Upcoming Events:

**1/2:** 119th Foundation Day: 'Tour de Romandie'.

**3/2 & 3/3:** SwissKids, 2pm. Swiss children having fun.

**7/2 & 7/3:** Ladies Luncheon, Swiss Club 2nd Floor, 12pm.

**14/2:** Swiss Polar Institute's Antarctic Circumnavigation Expedition 2016-2017. Presentation by Dr Anna Lucas.

**21/2:** Movie Night: 'Der Goalie bin ig' (I Am the Keeper).

**28/2:** Social Jass.

**7/3:** Annual General Meeting, 8pm.

**8/3:** Special Movie Night for International Women's Day: 'Die göttliche Ordnung' (The Divine Order).

**16/3:** Swiss Club Billiard: Doubles Championship, 8pm.

**21/3:** Swiss Comedy Night. Warm-up for the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, 8pm.

**16/3:** Swiss Club Billiard: Doubles Championship, 8pm.

**24/3:** Swiss Club Jass Nigh, 8pm.

The 2nd Floor will be closed from 26 March to 23 April for the Melbourne International Comedy Festival. The Swiss Club Restaurant will still be open during that time.

#### ARTICLES AND ADVERTISING IN THE «REGIONAL EDITION OCEANIA»

Contact the Editor Roland Isler, T: +61 (0)412 935 565, E: [risler@csa-oceania.org](mailto:risler@csa-oceania.org)

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**Consulate:** From the new Consul General

Dear Readers of the Swiss Review  
Dear Swiss in Australia



From all the staff at the Consulate General of Switzerland in Sydney I would like to wish you all a very happy New Year and at the same time introduce myself as the ‘new’ Consul General of Switzerland in Australia.

I took over the position from my predecessor, Ernst Steinmann, towards the end of July last year. I am joined on this journey by my husband, Nigel Brown.

I was raised in Ebersecken in Switzerland and joined the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs in 1982. After consular training in Berne and Venice, I was subsequently transferred to the Swiss consular and diplomatic representations in New York, Rome, Canberra and Santo Domingo. From 1999 to August 2007, I was Deputy Head of Mission, as well as heading the consular and administrative sections of the Swiss Embassies in Wellington and in Maputo. I then spent two years as Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission at the Swiss Embassy in Dublin before being appointed Consul General of Switzerland in Toronto in November 2009. In August 2013, I was transferred to Cape Town and now I am in Sydney.

Australia is not entirely new to Nigel and me, as I was previously posted in Canberra and met Nigel during that posting. He had been living in Australia for more than ten years before I came along and took him away. Coming back to this great and beautiful country is – for both of us – a really wonderful opportunity.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible during the next four years. Please be assured that together with my team here at the Consulate General we will do our best to offer you an outstanding service and support. With over 25,000 Swiss registered in Australia there are always many civil status updates and questions. Never hesitate to contact us with your queries.

Best wishes for a healthy, prosperous and happy New Year.

**BERNADETTE HUNKELER BROWN** | CONSUL GENERAL OF SWITZERLAND, SYDNEY



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Consulate General of Switzerland in Sydney

**Mobile passport station to visit Queensland and the Northern Territory in 2018**

The Consulate General of Switzerland in Sydney informs that it plans to visit the following cities with the mobile passport station:

- Cairns (second half of May)
- Darwin (second half of May)
- Brisbane (second half of May – early June)
- Mackay (second half of May – early June)

Registered Swiss citizens will be contacted by e-mail or letter two months prior to the visit with detailed information regarding dates, venues and procedures. Please ensure that the Consulate General has your up-to-date personal data and e-mail address.

The Consulate General aims to provide this service to its compatriots rotating the locations, servicing major cities on a regular basis.

@csa\_oceania

Swissinoceania/

**The CSA Oceania** – the Council of the Swiss Abroad representing the Swiss community in Oceania – consists of a team of six elected council members, two from New Zealand and four from Australia. Together they work on behalf of the 32,000+ registered Swiss living in Oceania, defending their interests as Swiss citizens living in this region.

- Carmen Trochsler** (SA) 0457 077 197 ctrochsler@csa-oceania.org
- Roland Isler** (VIC) 0412 935 565 risler@csa-oceania.org
- Katja Wallimann Gates** (QLD) 0418 737 488 kwgates@csa-oceania.org
- Beat Knoblauch** (NSW) 0419 012 245 bknoblauch@csa-oceania.org
- Peter Ehrler** (NZ) 0226 591 092 pehrler@csa-oceania.org
- Peter Canziani** (NZ) 0274 452 644 canziape@gmail.com



**CSA Oceania**  
Organisation of the Swiss Abroad

Go to **www.csa-oceania.org**

- for links to all **Swiss Community Groups**, Swiss Organisations and Swiss Consular Representations in Oceania
- for information about the **Organisation of the Swiss Abroad** and the **CSA Oceania** and the services they offer
- for **important information** about issues concerning Swiss Abroad