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REGIONAL NEWS

OCEANIA

Please note:
Next Editorial Deadline
22 February 2019



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

Editorial:

Dear readers, dear compatriots,

Happy New Year! I hope that 2019 be filled with good health, success, and lots of opportunities for you to experience Swissness.

And what fantastic Swissness we have here in Oceania – good enough in fact, to impress the Swiss in Switzerland! Recently, John Wanner and his ‘Kapelle Grüezi Mitenand’ were filmed by a Swiss television crew ‘on location’ at the Swiss Club of Victoria, ahead of their 2-hour live-to-air show on the ‘Viva Volksmusik’

program, broadcasting on Saturday night, 9 February in Switzerland! <https://www.srf.ch/sendungen/vivavolksmusik/>

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

Issue	Editorial deadline	Publication date
■ March 2/19	Fri, 22 February	Thu, 28 March
■ May 3/19	Fri, 19 April	Tue, 28 May
■ July 4/19	no regional edition	Thu, 18 July
■ September 5/19	Fri, 23 August	Thu, 26 September
■ November 6/19	no regional edition	Fri, 29 November

I look forward to receiving your contributions by the above editorial deadlines and to answer any enquiry regarding advertising in the «Regional News Oceania». Contact: risler@csa-oceania.org or +61 (0)412 935 565.

Oceania Swiss Club Presidents' Conference 2018

Saturday, 29 September. Saint Ignatius' Riverview College, Sydney. Organised by the Council of the Swiss Abroad representing Oceania. Hosted by the Swiss Club of New South Wales.



The Oceania Swiss Club Presidents' Conference 2018 coincided with the 50th Anniversary of the Sydney Yodlers and was held at the expansive campus of Riverview College on Sydney Harbour. 38 participants, including five from New Zealand and many VIP presenters attended. The morning session was reserved for relaying various messages from the Swiss government representatives to our region of Oceania.

The afternoon session brought various subjects to the forum such as the perennial fight of the Swiss Abroad with Swiss banks, old age pension payments and resulting tax problems, health insurance and e-voting.

Another topic stresses the importance of managing the archives of the Swiss Clubs in Oceania in an orderly way so as to ensure their survival and availability for future research. Other topics on the agenda were 'Good Practice for sharing children's photos online' and the establishment of an umbrella organisation for all Swiss Clubs in Australia in a way similar to that already in place in New Zealand and other countries. The idea

and proposal was discussed at length and the advantages of having such an umbrella organisation has been highlighted by some Club Presidents. The idea will be discussed further among Swiss Club members and their committees so as to ensure a broad-based approval. One of the main objectives of the meeting was to foster the interchange between the Club Presidents. It was noted with pleasure that some Swiss Clubs with new and dynamic young Presidents are achieving a positive increase in membership numbers.

The meeting concluded with an invitation from the Swiss Clubs in New Zealand to host the next Oceania Swiss Club Presidents' Conference which will be held on 16-18 October 2020 in Auckland.

The generous sponsorships in particular from the Swiss Community Care Society in Sydney and from the Swiss Club of NSW was gratefully acknowledged.

Preceding the conference was a relaxed harbour cruise for conference participants and their partners, and Swiss Yodlers from all corners of Oceania. Tunes usually heard in the Swiss mountains sounded across Sydney Harbour which presented itself to great advantage in the benevolence of a balmy evening on the water.

The meeting finished with a magnificent Gala Dinner and fantastic showcase of Swiss folklore 'made down-under'. The overseas guests in particular, were amazed at the variety of the program and about the Swissness of all the presentations. It was a delight vocally as well as visually.

Community News and Events

PNG: Joyful inmates celebrate

On 23 November, 42 inmates at the prison camp Baisu near Mt. Hagen had good reasons to look back and be proud of their investment in their personal life. They finished 15 Bible study lessons based on 'the Book of Acts' with teachings of life core values. The TEE program (Theological Education by Extension) was initiated by our church in 1998 and transformed many lives. 17 former inmates serve in different churches as pastors today.



On the occasion of the 20th TEE graduation, the anniversary was celebrated with a 'Hagen Cake' – a popular delicacy in PNG.

NZ: Taranaki Swiss Club

On 11 November our Patron, Lou Butler, celebrated his 85th birthday, so a pot-



luck lunch was held in the club house to honour this special occasion. Lou really enjoyed seeing some members of the Taranaki Swiss Club in attendance to help him celebrate. He has been an amazingly loyal and dedicated

member for many, many years. Lou, we really appreciate all that you have done for our Club, and wish you many more happy and healthy years in our midst.

The Ted Napflin Memorial Shield was competed for on 18 November with a good attendance. Participants could also take the opportunity to do the Championship Shoot with many doing so. The winner of the Ted Napflin

Memorial Shield this year was Peter Arnold (senior) – congratulations for a good shoot, Peter.

We held our Christmas Shoot on 25 November with a relatively good adult attendance. Erna organised Christmas activities for the few children who came along, and after a delicious pot-luck lunch, Father Christmas arrived, much to the delight of the children who kindly sang a couple of carols. Father Christmas was impressed by their creativity in decorating Christmas trees, and then distributed his presents. Prize-giving from the shooting/keglen competition was done, with the mystery prizes always greatly anticipated by the participants. Many thanks to Mark for organising this fun, social day; you do a terrific job!!!



Charlie Werder giving a 'thank-you' present to Father Christmas.

Upcoming Events:

7 & 21/2: Keglen recommences after the Christmas break, with Heidi always enjoying the company of any new competitors. These evenings, starting at 7.30pm, are always fun, with plenty of laughter and chatter, a bit of sport and a delicious supper.

9/2: The semi-final of the Cowbell Competition against our friends from Wellington will take place today. A lunch will be provided before the earnest part of the day, the sporting competition, commences. A dinner with our Wellington friends will be held, and we would love as many of our members as possible to attend. These are always fun occasions, with heaps of reminiscing, fun and laughter.

10/2: The biggest day on our Club calendar is the annual picnic...always the second Sunday in February. All

things Swiss will be happening – music, schwingen (Swiss wrestling which is always a great attraction), tombola (raffle), barbecued Cervelas and Bratwurst, and plenty of activities for the children. Parents/grandparents do come along and bring your children/grandchildren for this terrific day, which is always well-organised. A great day to catch up with friends, and make new acquaintances. The Kaponga Swimming Pool is just behind us, so people are more than welcome to use it. We really look forward to seeing you all!!!

4/3: Our Taranaki Swiss Club Annual General Meeting will be held. Come and hear how the past year has panned out, and what is in store for the coming year. We look forward to your attendance, and members having their input.

7 & 21/3: Keglen again at 7.30pm...come along and have some fun!!!

17/3: The small bore shooting will be hosting the Society/Championship Shoots from 1.00pm. Come along and give it a go. Mark is more than happy to help coach the juniors, so come along parents/grandparents and encourage your children to take up this sport.

NZ: Hamilton Swiss Club

Our Family Christmas Party was held on Sunday 2 December at the Newstead School. We had a very big turnout of all ages and it was great to see everyone spread the Christmas cheer by bringing along baking and raffle prizes, buying raffle tickets and joining in on singing some Christmas Carols. The club provided grilled Bratwurst and Cervelats to enjoy and the children had the opportunity to decorate home-made cookies and do crafts to take home. After lunch Santa arrived and handed out



presents to the little ones. This was followed by the raffle draw and a huge selection of afternoon-tea.

Upcoming Events:

23/2: 50 metre Medal Shooting Competition at Elmiger's Property in Karapiro.

24/2: Family Picnic at the Newstead School.

29-31/3: Weekend of hiking and socialising on Mount Ruapehu.

Please check the website for updates: www.swiss.org.nz/hamilton or email anita.zuber@swiss.org.nz

NSW: Swiss Yodlers of Sydney

2018 was not a usual year for our choir. It has been, a year of celebration – 50 years of Swiss Yodlers in Sydney! A special committee was formed to ensure the success of the 50 years celebrations. And proudly we like to look back and say, "es hätt sich glohnt, all de ufwand".

It was an event where we not only celebrated 50 Years of Swiss Yodlers, but also Swiss Culture in Oceania with our friends, choirs and musicians from as far as Perth, Auckland, Brisbane, Melbourne and Canberra and our closest friends the Swiss Folks Dance Group Alpegruess Sydney.

Over 300 people attended the festivities, which started on Friday, 28 September with a very 'gemütliche' harbour cruise, and a very late night with singing and lots of merriment!

A city tour of Sydney on Saturday was organised for all participants to see the highlights of our great city. The grand finale was of course the Gala Dinner on Saturday night. A fantastic night or as some said, a 'Mini-Jodlerfest'. The singing, the music, the entertainment, the food, the lovely decorated hall, and the perfect organisation contributed each to make this a very special night.



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We also had the honour to have no less than three Ambassadors present: the Ambassador of Switzerland to Australia, Pedro Zwahlen and his wife the Ambassador of Switzerland to the Pacific Islands, Yasmine Chatila Zwahlen, as well as the Ambassador of Switzerland to New Zealand, David Vogelsanger. And last but not least, the Consul General of Switzerland, Bernadette Hunkeler Brown was also among our VIP guests. Completed was the long guest list, with the attendees of the CSA Oceania Swiss Club Presidents' Conference, which took place on Saturday at the same venue.

The event festivities closed on Sunday morning with a family brunch on site of the St. Ignatius College in Lane Cove. Smiling faces, happy moods and some last Yodler songs ensured a lasting memory.

We like to thank all the people involved, the guests, friends, supporters and tireless efforts of the committee to make this event a success. See you again on the 100 years celebrations!

No, no, don't panic, you don't need to wait that long! Please join our traditional harbour cruise on Sunday, 24 February, from 2 to 6pm. Free parking will be available at Huntley Point wharf. We look forward to see you there. Infos can be found on our website www.swissyodlersofsydney.org. For bookings please either call Karin on 0414 999 462 or book online via <http://swissyodlerscruise2019.floktu.com/> to enjoy an early bird discount.

Please note also that due to the heavy bookings on the Castle Hill Showground, we had to move the Swiss National Day Celebration forward to Sunday, 28 July. Same place, same times, same food, same happy day with Swiss style celebrations at its best.

ADVANCED NOTICE

9th Australian National Jass Tournament



Darwin, Sunday 9th of June

For the last 8 years the Australian National Jass Tournament has seen steadily growing numbers of participants. For many of us 'regulars' it has become a permanent fixture in our yearly calendar.

In the past it has been held in Melbourne, Adelaide, Sydney, Perth and the Gold Coast. After consultation with previous participants and receiving a lot of positive feedback we have decided to hold our next tournament in Darwin.

More information and registration forms will be published as they become available.

<https://www.facebook.com/jasstournament/>

Please contact ruth.jasstournament@gmail.com for information. We are looking forward seeing many participants in Darwin.

Ruth Milwright and Anita Bickel

NSW: Swiss Club of New South Wales

The Swiss Club of NSW (SCNSW) trusts you had a joyful Christmas and celebratory start to the new year. We hope 2019 will be another successful year for the Swiss of Oceania. We are looking forward to continuing to work closely with the Oceania Swiss Clubs and groups, along with the Council of the Swiss Abroad and Swiss Representatives in Oceania. Several important topics were discussed at the recent Oceania Swiss Club President's Conference in Sydney and we anticipate improving the accessibility of information and solutions for the Oceania Swiss Clubs.



The SCNSW had a successful 2018 organising 12 events throughout the year, from our 'Buure Zmorge' to 'Schweizer Schützenfest' and Swiss National Day Fondue Dinner. The SCNSW Board of Directors would like to sincerely thank all our members, affiliates and sponsors who have supported us during 2018. We look forward to another successful year in 2019 with many of our regular and favourite events, together with some new outings that we hope our members and community will enjoy.

The SCNSW is purely volunteer-based and we run events to benefit the Swiss community of NSW. We rely on the support of our community to run social activities, provide enriched and interesting cultural experiences and to keep Swiss traditions alive in Australia. Please support your Swiss Clubs who support your Swiss community.

To all Oceania Swiss Clubs and its members, we wish you another successful start into the new year and

look forward to work more closely together.

Upcoming Events:

3/3: Brunch & Pétanque with the Cercle Romand at Ballast Point Park Birchgrove from 11am.

3/3: Free Swiss BBQ at Bronte Park from 11am. Non-members to pay \$15 to cover food costs.

7/4: Wild Mushroom Foraging in the Blue Mountains. We will meet at Victory Café in Blackheath at 9am.

For more information, please follow the link to our website www.swissclubnsw.com. You can follow us on our Facebook, Twitter, Instagram ([SwissClubNSW](https://www.facebook.com/SwissClubNSW)) and YouTube channel ([/SwissClubOfNSW](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSwissClubOfNSW)) and you can also subscribe to our free monthly emailed Newsflashes (<https://www.swissclubnsw.com/scn>) for all things Swiss in NSW.

NSW: Swiss Community Care Society (SCCS)

I am now in my second year as president of SCCS and getting more and more interested in promoting what we do. If you are a regular at our activities, you know how enjoyable they are. Maybe you could help spreading the word! One does not have to be a member or a senior to join in.

Following are our events and their dates (where already known) of 2019. Perhaps you like to mark them in your diary now:

- Two Excursions to interesting places with Lunch or High Tea on 15 March and 14 May;
- Two Concerts (Opera House, resp. Concourse in Chatswood) and Lunch on 5 April and in October;
- National Day Luncheon in Tempe on Saturday 3 August
- Christmas Luncheon in Tempe on 7 December

Please call Beat on 9969 7765 or

Regula on 9743 5323 if you would like to be on the list to receive invitations to these events which need to be booked.

No booking is required if you like to come to our 'Casual Friday Lunch' at the Concordia Club in Tempe. We meet there at about 12:30 on the third Friday of the month. Just look for the table with the little Swiss flags. You order your meal and drinks individually and enjoy the company of some Swiss friends. We might even have enough people there who would like to play a Jass!

We would also be happy to find new volunteers. We bring a little Christmas cheer to the homes of over 200 elderly Swiss in NSW. Those who live in or near Sydney are being visited; those further away receive their present by mail. Again call one of the above numbers if you like to be a visitor.

The aim of SCCS is to keep in touch with Swiss people. Please tell us if you have a relative, friend or just acquaintance that is unknown to us.

www.swissccs.org.au
 email: swissccs@gmail.com
 Regula Scheidegger



NSW: Cercle Romand

We wish all our friends and members a Happy New Year 2019.

A merry group of members gathered at 'The Little Snails' restaurant in Pyrmont to celebrate the end of the year



and the last event for 2018. Very nice food and good humour were in good supply for this fun night.

The committee has planned some nice events for 2019 and as usual, the details for each event are published on the club website www.cercleromand.com.au where location, time and booking information can be found.



The first event for 2019 will be our now traditional 'Pétanque & Brunch at the Park'. It will be held on 3 February at Ballast Point Park, Birchgrove. Winners will have their name engraved on the 'Paul Lambert Perpetual Trophy' and will receive complementary

invitation to our 'Raclette at the Park' event. No need to book for this event which is open to anyone related to the Swiss community.

Our **camping weekend** is planned on 22-24 March. This year we will be returning to the Glenmack Park, at Kangaroo Valley. It is a beautiful region located a couple of hours south of Sydney. There are plenty of things to do and to explore.

Next event will be 'Cinema, Pasta & Pizza' night in Leichhardt on Saturday 13 April. Details will be available in March and published on the club website.

Our May event this year is 'Raclette at the Park', on Sunday 19 May at Bobbin Head. May is the beginning of the cool months in Sydney and the best time to enjoy a raclette, a glass of wine and good company in this beautiful park by the water.

The committee thanks all its members for supporting these events and looks forward to seeing you in the coming months.

Le Cercle Romand...que du bon temps
www.cercleromand.com.au | FB : Cercle Romand Sydney

ACT: Canberra Swiss Club

The Canberra Swiss Club held its AGM on 18 November. After many years of contribution, the newsletter editor and the secretary did not stand for re-election again. Many thanks go to Carole Hoffmann and Mirjam Herzog for their much-appreciated work. The new board members are Gaby Hasler (President), Chris Heiniger (Vice President), Heather Bundy (Secretary), Sam Sainsbury (Treasurer), Gaby Hoffmann (Member Secretary), Evelyn Schneider (Newsletter Editor), Werner Albrecht, Matt Käser and Peter Zimmermann (Members).

First event of the year was the visit from Samichlaus and Schmutzli on 18 December in Weston Park. After some thorough work from Samichlaus, the children received a 'Samichlaussäckli' (Samichlaus bag) filled with goodies and a 'Grittibänz' (Yeast dough baked figure).



For all our members and friends it is worthwhile to keep an eye on our future events. We start with a film night, soon after the traditional coast weekend will again be a relaxing and social event with the raclette under the sky, swimming, walking, golfing, Jass (popular Swiss card game), and a lot of talking with tasty refreshments. Book early if you don't want to miss out. Some of the well-loved family events are the bushwalk, go-karting, family picnic and 'Eisstock schiessen'. The most popular events, however, are the Fondue night and the Swiss National Day Celebration.

Regular events are Jass and choir (Crèmeschnitte Chörli) rehearsal every fortnight. We also have a radio program every Monday night from 6-8 pm on CMS radio 91.1FM.

We hope to see many of you at our events and we wish you all a happy, fulfilled new year.

QLD: Fraser Coast Swiss Group

For Samichlaus and Christchindli 32 'Swaussies' enjoyed celebrating together, some in the pool. We enjoyed admiring and voting for the cutest 'Grittibänz' or Aengeli.

Upcoming Events:

15th of each month: lunch at AquaVue, Esplanade Torquay-Hervey Bay or as advised.

15/4: Easter bunny at private property in Dundowran Beach.

For details contact Cecile Scherrer on 0409 286 326 or cecile.scherrer@bigpond.com or go to www.swiss-clubqld.org.au/fraser-coast



QLD: Yodel Choir & Folklore Group 'Baerg-Roeseli'

Our Yodel Choir and Folklore Group is welcoming returning President Gabriel Dubler. We sing in three national languages and play a great variety instruments. To find out more, please contact Gabriel on 0435 570 241, yodel@swissclubqld.org.au or come to our first rehearsal and **OPEN DAY**, on 7 February, 7.30pm. Share a coffee/tea, a slice of cake and enjoy a private presentation.

QLD: Swiss Society of Queensland

Upcoming Events:

13/3: Movie night. There will be three films that viewers can choose from, all with English subtitles. Location: Anglican Church Hall, 56 Racecourse Road, Hamilton. Time: 6pm, movie starts at 7pm. Cost: \$10 for the movie including dinner (frankfurts & bread) and cake. Or a gold coin donation if you want to watch the movie only. RSVP: by 9 March to

Anita on 0401 957 309 or email anita@qbrg.com.au

It is always great to see new faces. If you have considered coming to any of our events, please do so. We are a friendly bunch of people, just come along and see for yourself.



JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL DAY OUT

Saturday, 23 February

BRISBANE to GOLD COAST on the Lady Brisbane

This 300 island sheltered water cruise from Brisbane to the Gold Coast will be a relaxing day on the Broadwater and Moreton Bay Marine Park.



Departure: Northshore Hamilton Pontoon, 281 MacArthur Ave, Hamilton. There is plenty of free parking

Cost: \$70 per adult. Includes morning tea, lunch and return coach to Brisbane.

Time: Departing 8.30 or 9.00am depending on the tide.

Booking: Rita von Rotz, 0431 707 144 or vonrotz@optusnet.com.au
To secure your seat please pay in advance and let me know so I can confirm. Early bookings appreciated, latest is 13 February

Payment: Swiss Society of Queensland, PO Box3240, Newstead Qld 4006
EFT: Westpac Bank, BSB 034-002, Account 708 120

Any of the events are published on our website on www.swissclubqld.org.au or for more information please contact Anita Meier on 0401 957 309.

VIC: Four very special anniversaries in 2019!

2019 is going to be a very special year for the Swiss community in Victoria. On 1 February, the Swiss Club of Victoria (SCV) will proudly celebrate its 120th anniversary. Eclipsing it by 20 years is the Swiss Society of Victoria (SSV), which will turn 140 years old – making it the oldest Swiss organisation in Australia!

But that’s not all! The Swiss Folk Dance Group Alpenrose (a subgroup of the SCV) will celebrate its 70th birthday and the Swiss Yodel Choir Matterhorn will be proudly 50 years old!

With so many amazing milestones in one year, the festivities will be nearly endless! The SCV is planning a Gala Ball on 30 March at the Royce Hotel. For bookings please visit www.trybooking.com/ZFEY. This Gala Ball will be the highlight of the festivities that will take place throughout the year. On this occasion the SSV and the dance group will also be celebrated. For details please visit the SCV website swissclubvictoria.com

The Matterhorn Choir will organise a special event on 16 November. More information will follow, or contact Erwin Weinmann, 0400 850 816 or ozrondo1@gmail.com

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Consular information



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Embassy of Switzerland in New Zealand

Mobile passport station visits in New Zealand in 2019

The team of the Embassy in Wellington plans to visit in **May 2019** the following regions with the mobile passport station:

- **Auckland**
- **Northland**

Registered Swiss citizens will be contacted by email or letter shortly with detailed information regarding dates, venues and procedures. Please ensure that the Embassy has got your personal data and email address and that you have communicated any changes in civil status (marriage, divorce, death, birth etc.).

Please note that Northland can only be considered if there is sufficient interest.



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Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Consulate General of Switzerland in Sydney

Mobile passport station visits in Australia in 2019

The team of the Consulate General in Sydney plans to visit in 2019 the following cities with the mobile passport station:

- **Perth (first half of April)**
- **Melbourne (October)**

Registered Swiss citizens will be contacted by email 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 email address.

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

NZ: New Honorary Consul in Auckland

After twenty-five years of outstanding service to several thousand Swiss citizens in the Auckland region, to countless tourists in difficulty and to the Embassy, Consul Peter Deutsche has retired at the end of last year. The Swiss Confederation, the Ambassador and the entire Embassy team are profoundly grateful for everything Peter has done. Their friendship and best wishes accompany him.

The Embassy is pleased to announce the nomination of Mr Adrian Blaser as the new Honorary Consul of Switzerland. Adrian is well known in the Swiss community in Auckland where he also served as president of the Swiss Club. He works as a researcher at the Cancer Society Research Center at the University of Auckland and has assumed his duties as Honorary Consul on 1 January 2019.

The address of the Consulate is now:

Consulate of Switzerland
157B Colwill Road
Massey
Auckland 0614

Email: auckland@honrep.ch
Phone: +64 9 281 3272
Mobile: +64 21 232 79 98



Adrian Blaser (left), Peter Deutsche (right)

Please note that visits have to be arranged in advance. All consular correspondence should be sent to the Embassy of Switzerland in Wellington, which is in charge of all administrative matters, with the exception of life certificates for the Swiss Compensation Office SCO and for Swiss pension funds, which can be issued by the Consul directly.

SA: New Honorary Consul in Adelaide

At the end of 2018, Honorary Consul René Pfister, who had helped and supported Swiss citizens living or travelling in South Australia, the Embassy in Canberra and the Consulate General in Sydney and their staff since September 2000, has retired. The Swiss Confederation, the Embassy in Canberra and the Consulate General in Sydney take this opportunity to thank René Pfister and his wife for their commitment and their support during all these years.

The Consulate General is pleased to announce the nomination of Mr Patrick Wille as the new Honorary Consul of Switzerland in Adelaide. Patrick is a dual Swiss and Australian citizen. He grew up in Switzerland and has been living in Adelaide for the past 14 years. He is a consultant to a law firm and additionally he teaches law, corporate governance and economics at various universities in Australia. He has assumed his duties as Honorary Consul on 1 January 2019.

His contact details are:

Consulate of Switzerland in Adelaide
Email: adelaide@honrep.ch
Phone: +61 8 8123 9202

(visits by appointment only)

The Consulate supports the Swiss representations in safeguarding Switzerland's interest in South Australia. For all consular matters or in an emergency please note that the Consulate General of Switzerland in Sydney is always your primary point of contact.

Communication: Social Media

Expanding their communication reach, the Embassy of Switzerland in Canberra and the Consulate General in Sydney are on Facebook since March 2018. The page provides you with a broad spectrum of news and targeted information, sometimes exclusive, on the Swiss presence 'down-under' and in the nations of Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu as well as regional facts.

In line with the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) (www.dfae.admin.ch/eda/en/home.html) strategy for social media, the presence on social media complements their traditional channels of communication. In particular, the presence on Facebook in general aims to alert the audience to information, services, events, and contacts available on their official websites. It is also a channel whereby they can directly contact and reach parts of the audience interested in all things Swiss and Australian.

The online program includes news relayed from official sources, such as Presence Switzerland (www.dfae.admin.ch/eda/en/home/fdfa/organisation-fdfa/general-secretariat/presence-switzerland.html), the FDFA's competent unit for the image of Switzerland abroad and its information portal House of Switzerland (houseofswitzerland.org), the FDFA's Interactive Blog (www.interactive.eda.admin.ch/blog/default.aspx), or relevant news from Swiss and Australian media outlets, and of course news, photos and videos curated by the Embassy and the Consulate specifically for their Facebook presence. New stories are in development for 2019 and will dive into the essence of the Swiss-Australian relations: the people.

The Embassy of Switzerland in Australia and the Consulate General in Sydney invite you to join them on Facebook @ [SwissEmbassyCanberra](https://www.facebook.com/SwissEmbassyCanberra) and to engage in English, German, French and Italian and share your opinions with its growing online community. Below are two examples of Facebook posts:



Coverage of Switzerland's emergency operations in Sulawesi, Indonesia.



Coverage of the Swiss Prize 2019, a partnership between the Embassy of Switzerland in Australia and the Australian National University.

It is important that your consular representation – the Embassy of Switzerland in Wellington or the Consulate General in Sydney – is notified of any changes of your contact details, in particular your phone and email address, so you can be reached in case of an emergency.

You can update your data by sending an email to wellington@eda.admin.ch or sydney@eda.admin.ch respectively (please note these email addresses have changed, please update your records).

Portrait: Stefano Vescovi



Since October 2018, Stefano Vescovi is the Deputy Head of Mission in Canberra, for Australia, Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. On the one hand, the Deputy Head of Mission is ensuring the Embassy's internal co-ordination. On the other hand, he informs and supports the Ambassador and the decision-makers in Switzerland in all policy fields, preparing dialogues and negotiations. When the Ambassador is abroad he takes charge of the Embassy.

Stefano Vescovi served as Assistant Secretary at the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs for the relations with the Sub-Saharan African Countries and the African Union, covering 15 Embassies, 8 Cooperation Offices and 2 Consulates General. Previously, he was the Economic Counsellor in Italy, a major trade and economic partner of Switzerland and at the Swiss Mission to the European Union in Brussels as team leader for Transport, Energy, Environment and Climate, directly involved in the negotiations between Switzerland and the EU in these areas. He joined the Swiss diplomatic service in 2001, working in Bern and with postings in Tanzania.

Before joining the diplomatic service, he worked at the Swiss Federal Department for Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications in the planning of international transport infrastructures through the Alps (Gotthard and Lötschberg railways).

Stefano was born and grew up in the Canton of Ticino. He graduated magna cum laude in Economics and in Political Science from the University of Bern.



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