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# REGIONAL NEWS

## OCEANIA

### Council of the Swiss Abroad meets in Bern

Some 131 members of the Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA) met on 17 March in Bern for their spring meeting. The meeting was conducted as a hybrid session, allowing for both a physical as well as an online participation. Hence 82 members met in person and 49 online. In previous years online participants were only able to be observers. This time, however, they were able to vote on issues the same way as those being present in person.



Australia was well represented as all four delegates were present in person: Katja Wallimann Gates (Brisbane), Roland Isler (Melbourne), Carmen Trochsler (Adelaide) and Beat Knoblauch (Sydney).



The following topics were on the agenda:

- New e-voting trials for the votes in June 2023
- New partnership with Zürich Cantonal Bank (ZKB)
- Statutory Business
- Update from the FDFA
- Election of a member of the CSA to the Compliance Committee
- Analysis of the legal form of the OSA
- Election Manifesto 2023
- Working Groups: Workshop on political participation

Read the full Report here:



<http://bit.ly/3H2e6MA>



# Consular Information



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra



Ballett Zürich, with Adelaide Symphony Orchestra and Adelaide Festival Chorus  
Choreography & Production by Christian Spuck

## AUS: Messa da Requiem

On 8 March, the Embassy and Consulate General of Switzerland co-hosted the Opera Opening Night Reception of Verdi's mighty masterpiece 'Messa da Requiem' together with the Adelaide Festival. They were thrilled to welcome the 36 dancers from Switzerland for this joint production of Ballet Zürich, Adelaide Symphony Orchestra and the Adelaide Festival Chorus.

What a marvellous way to celebrate multiculturalism, cross-culture collaboration and the universal language of music and dance!



### Online desk for Swiss Nationals residing Abroad

Entering your details in the Register of the Swiss Abroad, ordering confirmations, announcing civil status matters, and subscribing to publications: The FDFA's online desk offers Swiss nationals abroad the opportunity to request services from the comfort of their homes. It simplifies correspondence between Swiss nationals and their Swiss representation. Once you have opened an account, you can access your details online in the Register of the Swiss Abroad.

➔ <http://bit.ly/3Jc865z>

## OCEANIA: Attention Young Swiss Abroad!

Did you know? World-wide, about 162,000 Swiss citizens under the age of 18 live abroad. In 2017 alone, almost 8,000 young Swiss Abroad reached the age of majority. Head to the website for more information

➔ <https://bit.ly/3ycqXHk>

Upon turning 18 years old, you will have to register independently from your parents at either the Consulate General in Sydney, email: [sydney.cs@eda.admin.ch](mailto:sydney.cs@eda.admin.ch) or the Embassy in Wellington, email: [wellington@eda.admin.ch](mailto:wellington@eda.admin.ch) depending where you live.



Please advise your own email address and mobile number as soon as possible and mention your full name and date of birth in your message.



The goal of **easyvote** is to get young Swiss – 18-25-year-olds – interested in Swiss politics and to encourage them to participate in the political decision making process. The website explains in easy to understand language the political issues and processes. With elections happening this year, it is all the more important to get our young citizens to feel empowered, qualified and motivated to vote in Switzerland. The website is in German, French and Italian. Parents, please check it out and tell your children that have come of age about **easyvote**.

➔ <https://www.easyvote.ch/>

### Enrol to vote now!

The Swiss federal elections will take place in October this year. To be able to vote, Swiss Abroad must be enrolled on an electoral register. To find out how to do that, head to the SwissCommunity website where you can download an application form and fact sheet. Don't delay!

➔ <http://bit.ly/3UScCdG>



# 'Reisebüro Linth': Migration in Switzerland

The 'Reisebüro Linth' (Travel Agency Linth) in Kaltbrunn (SG) is unlike any other Travel Agency you know. It is in fact the only museum solely devoted to showcasing the migration of people in and out of Switzerland – then and now.

I met up with Peter Brunner, who is a member of the Culture Commission Kaltbrunn and manages the 'Reisebüro Linth'. He explains the concept: "Emigration and immigration are omnipresent. We want to show what goes on in people's minds when they decide to leave their homeland forever. What are their thoughts? How strong does the desire or the need have to be to set out into the distance and leave the familiar behind?" In the exhibition rooms, everything revolves around the search for happiness, feelings of home, escape, adventure, wanderlust and foreign cultures. "We don't limit ourselves to a historical review, we also deal with current events and want to promote diversity and respectful interaction with foreign cultures," says Brunner. The exhibition should be informative and entertaining. According to Brunner, there are also many opportunities to take up the topic by means of readings, discussion evenings, specialist presentations, musical and culinary events.

## From an emigration country to an immigration country

In the 19th century, many Swiss emigrated to the new world – America, Australia and New Zealand. The catalyst of this emigration was a food shortage and economic downturn. Between 1835 and 1855 agricultural yields shrank massively. Then there was poverty and unemployment. Things have changed dramatically since then, but the topic still moves us and has lost none of its relevancy. Nowadays Switzerland is a rich nation and has become an immigration country. For instance, Switzerland is currently experiencing a wave of refugees from the Ukraine. People have been traveling



since ancient times. Motivation is varied, sometimes it is love or seeking adventure, but mostly it is to escape an uncertain future – poverty, war and unemployment that is forcing someone to emigrate.

## How did the 'Reisebüro Linth' come about?

"Originally the house was a beautiful old farmhouse built in 1568. It was sold to the municipality of Kaltbrunn and from 1999 to 2020, the Culture Commission ran the regional museum in this building. Exhibitions were held every two years. But the experience was always the same," says Brunner. "At first there were many visitors, but then they stayed away. So, we set about to develop a new concept geared towards a specific topic and we decided on immigration and emigration – migration," explained Brunner. In this way we wanted to create something unique and move away from the conventional 'museum' setting – hence the name 'Reisebüro Linth'. There is a thematic reference to the Linth area, but it is not limited to that.

**REISEBÜRO LINTH**  
 Museum für Auswanderung und  
 Einwanderung  
 Gasterstrasse 39, 8722 Kaltbrunn  
<https://reisebuero-linth.ch/>



## Spread over three floors

The interior of the old farmhouse is a fascinating backdrop for the exhibits, as it has been left largely in its original state. It extends over three floors with the thematic permanent exhibition on the ground floor and first floor including a true-to-original ship cabin and a special contemporary exhibition on the second floor. One learns, for example, that 20% of the emigrants on Ellis Island in New York had to be quarantined first because of physical or mental illness. Quite a few of those poor souls who were deported from their home communities in Switzerland were sent back immediately by the authorities.

The 'Reisebüro Linth' provides an impressive and captivating insight into migration in and out of Switzerland and what led to it by means of exhibits using film, documents, collected objects and researched life stories. *Ed*



Peter Brunner, member of the Culture Commission Kaltbrunn and manager of the 'Reisebüro Linth'.

# Community News and Events

## NZ: Auckland Swiss Club

### The End of an Era

23 Feb 1993. An auspicious date – although none of us realised the extent of it at the time. It was nice to know that Eveline and Franz would open a Swiss Café and Bakery. Swiss wholemeal bread would be a welcome change from the Vogels we used to buy. Little did we know that the Swiss café was going to be a home away from home to us for nearly thirty years.

The delicacies we enjoyed were numerous – the best ‘Cremeschnitte’ (custard slice), croissants, chocolate cakes, calzone, coffees, just to mention a very few.

A heartfelt thank you to the wonderful Swiss Café team. We will feel a bit lost without you being there in 2023. Very best wishes for the next phase of your lives.



Eveline would like to thank all who have supported the business, including every customer, all the groups, and the Auckland Swiss Club who bought so much of their baking for their events.

We treasure our memories, and look forward to keeping in touch with each other.

NELLY STEINEMANN

### From the Riflemaster

We now know that Switzerland will no longer supply us with ammunition and other details, such as traditional Swiss competitions and medals are yet to be determined with the various organisations in Switzerland. Rest assured, that the traditional Swiss shooting in New Zealand, as we have known for so many years, will need adjusting to the times we are finding ourselves in.

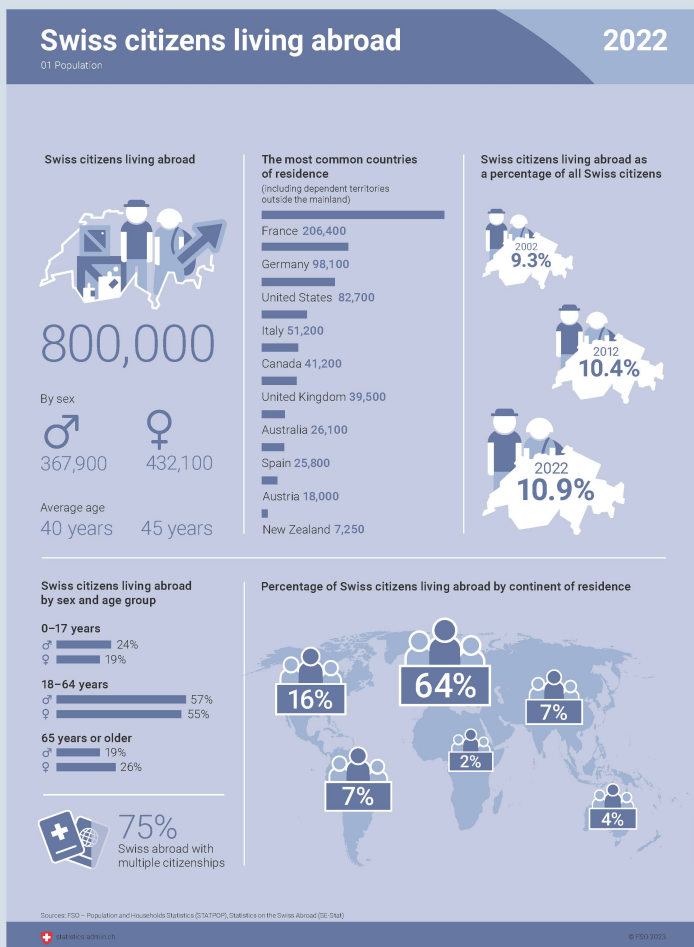
Help is needed! Please let me know if you are interested to help in the organisation and running of the shooting events. We need a few more Range Officers, as currently Ernst Lanz and I are the only two Auckland based, I know of. Without a Range Officer on site, we won't be able to hold any shooting days.

It is my intent to keep the shooting alive, utilising the range we have all been taking outstanding care of, since Hans Fitz obtained approval by the Waitemata County Council and the New Zealand Army in 1968.

DANIEL WIEDERKEHR

### Swiss Family Picnic

The devastating after-math of Gabrielle was visible throughout New Zealand, and here in Auckland people dealt with slips, flooding, and damage from wind. But with the weather forecast sunny for the weekend, we felt that the family picnic should go ahead and would lift the spirits and give us a little bit of that desperately needed summer feeling back. Thankfully, Sandra and Dominic Hess inspected and were able to clear the slips on the road allowing access to the farm. We were still without power on the farm on the day (thank you Harry for bringing a back-up inverter just in case) and limited water, but everyone



For the first time, more than 800,000 Swiss people lived abroad. The number of Swiss Abroad rose by 1.5% within a year at the end of 2022, as announced recently by the Federal Statistical Office (FSO). Compared with 2021, their number increased on all continents (Asia +2.1%, Europe +1.9%, Oceania +1.0%, America +0.7%, Africa +0.4%).



pulled together and we managed to have one of our most relaxing and fun family picnics! Julia brought hot water and coffee in a thermos, and we were spoiled with baking from many of our members, including a delicious Toggenburger Schlorzifladen from

Marianne, Linzertorte from Diana, and Fasnachtschüechli from Julia. We truly have some gifted bakers in our Swiss community! For our lunch we decided to trial the cervelats, veal bratwurst and frankfurter from Betscharts Ltd, which were grilled to perfection by our BBQ masters Gian and Lukas, and from the many sausages we sold, they seem to have gotten the seal of approval. The sun was out, the kids enjoyed the outdoors, we had marshmallows roasting in the fire pit, Schwyzerörgeli music on the boomboxes, and everyone brought their 'gueti Luune'! Thank you to all the volunteers who helped and everyone who came and made this into another awesome event!

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

9/6 & 14/7: Jassen

16/5: AGM

22/7: Working Bee

29/7: National Day celebrations.

#### NZ: Taranaki Swiss Club

On 6 March we held our Annual General Meeting, with a new Patron being elected, as sadly our former Patron Lou Butler had passed away during the year. Lisette Benkert was the sole nomination, and she was elected our new Patroness. Congratulations Lisette; we know you will serve us well!! We were also elated to have two new committee members in Mary Kalin and Joe Kuriger ... grateful thanks for joining our committee and we hope you will enjoy being a part of our team. Our new program and newsletter has been sent to members and we look forward to your attendance at our functions! We have a great program in store, so please come along!

On King's Birthday Weekend (3-5 June) we will be heading by bus to Wainuiomata, Wellington, for the final of the Cowbell Competition and the Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Society of NZ. Always a great weekend, but bookings need to



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be made to Othmar by 20 May. We look forward to great support from our club for this fun weekend with fellow Kiwi-Swiss.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**18/5:** Keglen again

**13/5:** Our fabulous fondue evening (or cervelas and salads or BOTH!!) served between 6-8pm, followed by a social evening with great musical entertainment by our talented musicians.

**14/5:** Swiss Society sports competitions from 11.00am ... take part in shooting, shot put, keglen and jassen ... the top 20% in each discipline will win a beautiful certificate and prize. A separate competition is held for under 16s. Come along and give it a go!!

**21/5 & 11/6:** Jassen from 1.15pm ... come and enjoy!

**18/6:** Jassen again at 1.15pm and the final Championship Shoot from 1.00pm – 3.00pm.

**8/7:** Our fabulous Anniversary Shoot with the delicious sauerkraut and/or pickled red cabbage; another function not to miss!!

#### NZ: Swiss Society

A get together of Kiwi-Swiss from throughout New Zealand will be held on King's Birthday Weekend (3-5 June) hosted by the Wellington Swiss Club at their club house in Wainuiomata. The final of the Swiss Society of New Zealand's Cowbell competition will be held between Taranaki and either Hamilton or Auckland with shooting (using Swiss Society competition results held prior to this weekend), shot put, keglen and jassen on the morning of 4 June. The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at 2pm on the same day with a dinner held in the evening. We look forward to meeting as many Society members as possible and ask that you contact Marianne ([marianne.drummond@swiss.org.nz](mailto:marianne.drummond@swiss.org.nz)) should you wish to attend.

#### SA: Swiss Club of South Australia

Now more than ever people want to reconnect face to face and be part of a local community group, so make this the year you join the Swiss Club of SA. We welcome everyone at our Swiss Club events, and you can find all the details on our website: [www.swissclubsa.org.au](http://www.swissclubsa.org.au)

The Swiss Club has been active in the community – we recently gave a lecture on Swiss Gastronomy at Flinders University, as part of the French Language program, under the leadership of Dr Christèle Maizonniaux. The event was supported by the Swiss Embassy in Canberra, and we thank the Ambassador and her staff for all the assistance we have received.

Coming up, we will host our very popular Fondue Night at the Austrian Club, on Saturday 29 April. This is always a great night of togetherness, with great

music, dancing and games, and photos will be uploaded to our website.

Our next event will be our National Day celebration at Montacute Community Hall on Saturday 29 July. Make sure you keep the date free – we'd love to have you visit us and we'd enjoy having you around.

If you are a new to Adelaide or to South Australia, the Swiss Club might be just what you need to keep in touch with Switzerland. We are all about get-togethers among friends and people from the same area of the world, and we have a lot of fun as a virtual, itinerant and vibrant Club, promoting our traditional events.

You may also want to tune in to our Swiss Radio program: 5EBI (103.1FM) every Saturday, from 6pm to 7pm ACST (<https://5ebi.com.au/programs/swiss/>) for traditional Swiss music.

For further details on how to become a member or getting in touch with our

#### AUS: Swiss Alliance Australia (SAA) Community Calendar

## Swiss Events in Australia

As an additional service to the Swiss community in Australia, the SAA has created an events calendar on the SAA website. We hope it will become the ultimate go-to place for anyone that is interested to find out about Swiss community events in Australia.

Who is it for? It is for all Swiss associations, clubs, groups – big or small – 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.

Anyone can go ahead and post their event without having to contact us, or asking us to put it up on their behalf. Simply click on the date field you want or the + sign at the top to open an event field. Entering the information is simple and self-explanatory. A posting will not be visible straight away. We get notified and have to approve anything saved on the calendar in order to prevent any misuse.

The success of this tool depends on people using it – those that have something to advertise, and those that want to look up what the Swiss community in Australia is doing. So please, go ahead and make it your own.

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

Go the website of the Swiss Alliance Australia   
[www.swissallianceaustralia.org](http://www.swissallianceaustralia.org)



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Swiss Associations in Australia

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## WA: Swiss Yodellers of WA

The Swiss Yodellers of WA have been performing traditional Swiss music in Perth since 1974, and most members of the group are of Swiss origin. The group has an emphasis on songs and yodels in the four Swiss languages: German, French, Italian and the ancient Romansh from eastern Switzerland. We appear in colourful traditional costume and our vocals feature many yodels and a range of harmonies.

For all our fans, we will be performing at the Guildford Songfest in the Swan Valley on 9 & 10 September.

If you would like to know more about the Swiss Yodellers or book us for your function, please contact Rob Phillips on 0416 065 054 or [r.phillips@iinet.net.au](mailto:r.phillips@iinet.net.au)

### Swiss Club of WA

Andre Villemin (President) 0422 083 138

[akvillemin99@aapt.net.au](mailto:akvillemin99@aapt.net.au) fb:

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

### Guggeburras Guggemusig

Christine Toolin-Aeschlimann (Manager) 0451 120 751

[christine.ae@gmx.ch](mailto:christine.ae@gmx.ch)

## VIC: Matterhorn Yodel Choir

It is with great sadness that we have to report that Godi Schmuki, founding member of our choir, passed away recently. Godi was not only the backbone of the Matterhorn Choir for many decades, his important role in organising events for the Swiss community in Victoria gained him a large circle of friends. The Choir said a warm goodbye to Godi at his funeral service with one of his favourite songs 'Mys Plätzli'.

Much better news is that we have been able to secure a new venue for the traditional **Swiss National Day Picnic**: The Pavilion at Kings Park in Upper Ferntree Gully. The Picnic will be held there on Sunday 6 August – please mark the day in your diary. We are very grateful for the support provided by the Swiss Society of Victoria for this event.

The 3rd Matterhorn Jassabig at the Horticultural Centre in Forest Hill will be held on Saturday 12 August.



## VIC: SwissKids

A favourite of all the SwissKids events is without doubt Easter where kids and chocolate collide. We were lucky enough this month to get back to the Swiss Club of Victoria restaurant for our Easter session. The children, parents and grandparents shared stories of what Easter looks like in their homes and in particular, their cantons. We shared traditions of egg-tossing from Zürich, egg-smashing (Eier-Tütsche) from Bern and everything in between.

Language was a big focus of our Easter event with the children eagerly participating in the team games which all featured an element of Swiss-German and French words. The egg and spoon race, bunny-hop and yodelling competition were all popular games with families spending quality time together decorating eggs before the finale of Eier-Tütsche crowned the Beer family champions for 2023. It was great to see many new families attending events again as we look forward to our next events in the coming months.

There has never been a better time to join the Swiss Club and benefit from the heavily subsidised events for full SCV members.

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

21/5: Family Jass Competition & z'Vieri

16/7: SCV Mount Buller Snow Trip

For events or membership enquiries: Claude Alain Staub

0433 888 889 [claudio@swissclubvic.com.au](mailto:claudio@swissclubvic.com.au)

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<https://swissocietyvic.org/>  
Susan Brealey – M: 0401 170 036  
E: [admin@swissocietyvic.org](mailto:admin@swissocietyvic.org)



# FIFA Women's Football World Cup 2023 coming downunder

Australia and New Zealand are sharing the hosting rights for this year's biggest event in women's sport.

It's a tournament of firsts:

- First time the FIFA Women's World Cup is in the southern hemisphere.
- There are 32 teams. Previously only 24 teams went to the last stage of the tournament.
- Australia and New Zealand are in two different Football Federations (Asia and Oceania).
- Worldwide there are 1.2 billion people watching these games.
- It is hoped that a record breaking 1.5 million people will be watching the games locally...

...and that is where you can come in. New Zealand is fortunate enough to have the privilege of hosting the Swiss National Team. Their home base is in Dunedin, where Switzerland plays the Philippines on 21 July (5pm kick-off). On 25 July they play Norway in Hamilton (8pm kick-off). The big game against

the host New Zealand is again in Dunedin on Sunday 30 July, kick-off at 7 pm.

The progression in the knockout phase of the Swiss team would mean they play in Auckland or Wellington in the round of 16, same venues for the quarter final and even semi-final is in Auckland. The game for 3rd place and final would then be in Brisbane or Sydney.

Overall there are 64 matches in 10 different stadiums (6 in Australia and 4 in NZ).

Tickets are on sale now for the remaining tickets. Go to [www.fifa.com/fifaplus/en/tickets](http://www.fifa.com/fifaplus/en/tickets) and select FIFA Women's World Cup 2023. After you register your email you can buy tickets. You can search by city, by team and you can buy multiple tickets for multiple matches in one purchase.

Support our girls by attending the games in person or watch on your chosen sport channel.



**Swiss match dates**

5pm Friday 21 July  
v Philippines  
Dunedin Stadium, Dunedin / Ōtepoti

8pm Tuesday 25 July  
v Norway  
Waikato Stadium, Hamilton / Kiriikiriroa

7pm Sunday 30 July  
v New Zealand  
Dunedin Stadium, Dunedin / Ōtepoti

**Buy tickets**  
FIFA.com/tickets

**Group Tickets** (more than 10)  
TKT@fwwc2023.org

**For more info**  
ambassador@culturalpulse.com.au

## Swiss Sayings: Lost in Translation

Interesting sayings in our national languages, explained by Beatrice Schlegel – a professional translator and Swiss Abroad from Wales in the UK.

### “De isch em Herrgott / Tüfel abem Charre gheit!”

These are two variants of a saying with distinctly different meanings: the first one signifies that somebody's quiet life has come to an abrupt end, whereas the second version means that somebody outwitted death and is still alive against all odds. The 19th century author Jeremias Gotthelf, for example, mentions this saying in chapter 9 of his book 'Die Käserei in der Vehfreude': 'Die Lismertise im Bohnenloch kennen alle, wenn eine dem Teufel vom Karren gefallen ist, so ist es sie'. An interesting detail is that 'charra' is an Italian loan word from 'Carretta' or from the Latin 'Carrus'. Translated this would mean: **De ischem Herrgott abem Charra gheit!** – French: 'Il l'a échappé belle' Italian: 'L'ha scampata per un pelo' and **De ischem Tüfel abem Charra gheit!** – French: 'Prendre le mauvais chemin' Italian: 'È finito sulla brutta strada'.

Beatrice Schlegel, B.A.(hons), M.A., MCIL

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www.beatservices.co.uk

## REGIONAL NEWS OCEANIA

These Regional News Oceania pages have a circulation of 22,000 – 8,300 of which are printed copies. They are distributed to all Swiss Abroad households registered with the relevant Swiss representation in Canberra and Wellington.

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risler@csa-oceania.org +61 (0)412 935 565

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3-May	Tue, 18.04.23	Fri, 12.05.23
4-August	no regional news	Fri, 11.08.23
5-October	Tue, 26.09.23	Fri, 20.10.23
6-December	no regional news	Fri, 08.12.23

Visit the umbrella organisations in Australia and New Zealand for community news and information, as well as links to Swiss Clubs, community groups, professional organisations and consular representations in Oceania:

[www.swissallianceaustralia.org](http://www.swissallianceaustralia.org)  
[www.swiss.org.nz](http://www.swiss.org.nz)



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Umbrella Organisation of Swiss Associations in Australia



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