4th OCEANIA SWISS CLUB PRESIDENTS' CONFERENCE



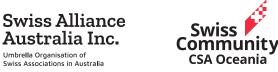
MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, 19 November 2022 Embassy of Switzerland, Canberra

Umbrella Organisation of Swiss Associations in Australia

Organised by the Swiss Alliance Australia Inc and the CSA Oceania







Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft Confédération suisse Confederazione Svizzera Confederaziun svizra

Embassy of Switzerland in Australia

Agenda:

MORNING

08.30 -	09.00	Registration	ጲ	Coffee
00.50 -	09.00	Regisciocion	α	COLLEC

- 09:00 09:15 OFFICIAL WELCOME Claude Alain Staub CULTURAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT ORGANISATION AND AIM OF THE MEETING
- 09:15 09:30 WELCOME FROM THE HOST SWISS-AUSTRALIAN RELATIONS – UPDATE AND PRIORITIES
- 09:30 9:45 SWISS-NEW ZEALAND RELATIONS Viktor Vavricka UPDATE AND PRIORITIES
- 09:45 9:55 Questions & Answers
- 9:55 10:15 LATEST NEWS FROM THE OSA

10:15 - 10:30 Coffee Break

- 10:30 11:00LATEST NEWS FROM THE FDFA IN BERNLaurent PerriardNEW APP FOR THE SWISS ABROAD
- 11:00 11:10 Questions & Answers
- 11:10 11:30
 CONSULATE UPDATE
 Cornelia Camenzind

 A SHORT INTRODUCTION
 Cornelia Camenzind
- 11:30 11:50 EMBASSY'S CHRISIS MANAGEMENT AND RESPONSE TO NATURAL DISASTERS POLITICAL RIGHTS FOR SWISS ABROAD
- 11:50 12:00 Questions & Answers
- 12:00 12:20 SUPERANNUATION THE NEW ZEALAND PENSION SYSTEM
- 12:20 12:30 Questions & Answers ALL

12:30 - 14:00 Lunch Break Group Photo to be taken during this time

Caroline Bichet-Anthamatten

Fillipo Lombardi (Zoom)

Carmen Trochsler

Viktor Vavricka

Peter Ehrler

ALL

ALL

ALL

Agenda:

AFTERNOON

14:00 - 14:20	THE SAA: AIMS AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS	Claude Alain Staub
14:20 - 14:30	The SAA: UPDATE ON THE INSURANCE OFFER	Martin Scarpino
14:30 - 14:40	Questions & Answers	ALL
14:40 - 14:55	AUSTRALIA-WIDE SWISS CARE NETWORK	Katja Wallimann Gates Regula Scheidegger
14:55 - 15:10	Coffee Break	
15:10 - 15:25	E-LIBRARY OF SWISS MIGRANT BIOGRAPHIES & DIGITAL MUSEUM OF THE SWISS ABROAD	Beat Knoblauch Carmen Trochsler
15:25 - 15:40	SAA WEBSITE / SWISS REVIEW	Roland Isler
15:40 - 16:25	OPEN FORUM: Communication – Collaboration – Innovation	Club Presidents
15:40 - 16:25 16:25 - 16:45		Club Presidents ALL

EVENING

19:00 Following the conclusion of the meeting, participants can relocate to their hotel to refresh and reconvene at the Embassy for dinner.

During dinner there will be an opportunity to farewell retired Consul General, Bernadette Hunkeler Brown.

Presenters:

Chairman of Meeting	Claude Alain Staub President, Swiss Alliance Australia Inc. (SAA)			
Presenters – Switzerland	Laurent Perriard Deputy Director General, Consular Directorate Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), Bern			
	Caroline Bichet-Anthamatten Ambassador of Switzerland to Australia, Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu			
	Viktor Vavricka Ambassador of Switzerland to New Zealand, the Cook Islands, Fiji, Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu			
	Cornelia Camenzind Consul General of Switzerland, Sydney			
	Filippo Lombardi President, Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) (Zoom)			
Presenters – Oceania	Claude Alain Staub, SAA President			
	Carmen Trochsler Member of the Executive, Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) Council of the Swiss Abroad (SA)			
	Katja Wallimann Gates , SAA Secretary; Council of the Swiss Abroad (QLD)			
	Martin Scarpino, SAA Treasurer			
	Beat Knoblauch, Council of the Swiss Abroad (NSW)			
	Roland Isler , SAA Vice-President; Council of the Swiss Abroad (VIC); Editor, Swiss Review (Roland's presentations were delivered by Carmen Trochsler)			
	Peter Ehrler, Council of the Swiss Abroad (NZ)			

Attendees:

PARTICIPANTS

Albrecht, Werner Blaser, Adrian Brealey, Susan Bruengger, Alice Coquerand, Philippe Dietiker, Amanda Dietiker, Christian Frei, Silvan Frutiger, Daniel Gates, Kevin Hebler, Othmar Huber, Rolf Kretz, Alois Kuendig, Barbara Resplendino, Anne Schaller, Urs Scherrer, Cecile Staheli, Willetta Von Rotz, Rita

FACILITATORS

Frutiger, Martin Koeppel, Barbara Stocker, Lynn

APOLOGIES

Hebler, Marlies Heiniger, Christoph Isler, Roland Staheli, Herbert

Swiss Club Canberra Hon. Consul Auckland Swiss Society of Victoria Swiss Yodel Choir Matterhorn, Vic Swiss Society of Queensland Orange Swiss-Austrian-German Group Orange Swiss-Austrian-German Group Swiss Entrepreneurs, Sydney Swiss Club of NSW Swiss Yodel & Folklore Group Bärg-Röseli, QLD Taranaki Swiss Club / Swiss Society of New Zealand Swiss Festival Melbourne Swiss Yodlers and Alphorn Group, NSW Swiss Club of Victoria Cercle Romand, NSW Swiss Entrepreneurs, Sydney Swiss Group Fraser Coast, QLD Hamilton Swiss Club, New Zealand Swiss Community Care Society, QLD

Photographer Registration/Minutes taker Conference Support

Taranaki Swiss Club / Swiss Society of New Zealand Swiss Club Canberra SAA / CSA VIC Hamilton Swiss Club, NZ



Minutes:

OFFICIAL WELCOME – Claude Alain Staub officially welcomes all attendees

CULTURAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

ORGANISATION AND AIM OF THE MEETING

Welcome to Country and Acknowledgment of the custodian people Ngunnawal people

Claude thanks the Ambassador Bichet-Anthamatten, the distinguished guests Laurent Perriard, Bern, Ambassador Vavricka from NZ and others from NZ, Filippo Lombardi via zoom, the Consul General Cornelia Camenzind, and mentions that former Consul General, Bernadette Hunkeler will join us for dinner which will provide an opportunity to say good goodbye to her and her husband Nigel. Further, Claude thanks the CSA delegates who shared the vision to set up the umbrella organisation, particularly Beat Knoblauch, (the Godfather of the SAA), he thanks the Swiss Club leaders, volunteers, founding members in particular Regula Scheidegger of SCCS who provided the finances to help the SAA get off the ground.

There is a cultural shift with aging generations, lack of interest of younger Swiss to become members, which provides a challenge that needs to be addressed. There are more second and third generation Swiss and this requires increased collaboration and innovation for all existing Swiss clubs. This is the aim of today's conference.

The meeting is officially opened.

WELCOME FROM THE HOST – Caroline Bichet-Anthamatten, Ambassador of Switzerland, Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu

SWISS-AUSTRALIAN RELATIONS – UPDATE AND PRIORITIES

Caroline Bichet-Anthamatten thanks the clubs for their fantastic job. Reasons to be proud. Over 26,000 Swiss in Australian, which is the third largest Swiss community outside of Europe. Many things keep us together through culture, finance, trade, values, democracy.

61 years ago, Friederich Gigax started the Consulate, and the diamond jubilee of 60 years of relationship between Australia and Switzerland was celebrated last year. E.g.many Swiss winemakers came to Victoria, some to QLD, Henry Tardent translated he Swiss constitution into English and many points inspired the Australian Constitution, e.g. the referendum to change the constitution; the Merz scholarship, an agreement between Swiss and Australian universities, Swiss students don't require a visa to come to Australia, young Swiss now have access to a working holiday programme.

Fondation Opal, in the Valais is the second largest display of Indigenous art outside of Australia, after the one in the USA.

In the field of trade, 250 Swiss companies are working in Australia, with Switzerland being the 11th largest investor in Australia.

The re-opening of the Australia embassy in Bern which had closed in 1992 is also taking place now with the official reopening on 9 December with trade minister Don Farrell. This will further deepen our collaboration.

SWISS-NEW ZEALAND RELATIONS – Viktor Vavricka, Ambassador of Switzerland to NZ and Pacific States.

UPDATE AND PRIORITIES

Viktor has been the new ambassador for five weeks. His parents moved to Switzerland from Czechia in 1968. He is a lawyer by training, and often worked as a diplomat with Caroline and Emmanuel (her husband) in Bern. He worked in Ottawa, Canada where there is a large Swiss community. Returning to Bern, then to Riyadh, Bangkok, as Deputy in Berlin, then in Ramallah, Palestine, and is now in New Zealand, where one values to live in a stable environment where democracy and human rights are respected. This must be cherished.

Bilateral relations between Switzerland and New Zealand are good but not very intense. Switzerland is the 13th import to NZ and seven thousand Swiss residents are registered.

Number one priority is to work towards the conclusion of the Social Security agreement, NZ foreign policy is politically important, concretely around Chinese influence and policies regarding NZ; NZ has a free trade agreement with China, just like Switzerland. Multi-lateral cooperation is important, i.e. between likeminded countries, most issues happen between the USA and Switzerland, but NZ must be kept in the loop.

Another priority is to find ways to activate young Swiss, working holidays are not on NZ's agenda yet, but it would be good to speak to the authorities in NZ about this.

Regarding the economy, bilateral relations are very important, ABB and Roche are celebrating their 50th anniversary in NZ and Bern is interested in better relations.

The Pacific Islands are not a priority in Bern, so developing something to back them up with funds is a challenge.

As there are seven thousand Swiss residents, the embassy reopened in2002 and it is intended to stay open.

Priorities for 2023, 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations in 2023, Ignazio Cassis once said he wants to market this as a celebration of countries with the same values.

Women's football world cup, there will be three matches in Dunedin on 30 July and 1 August.

Security and safety are always on the agenda, especially earthquake safety. He mentions being grateful for the overall stability we live in, however how fragile to the exposure to the natural forces we are. As an embassy to have foresight of what could be coming is needed. Our role is to support and protect all Swiss interests.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q: We have not heard much about the Pacific Islands.

A: Australia covers five islands, NZ the other islands, and one ambassador in Manila for the rest. Emmanuel Bichet is ambassador for some of the Pacific Islands, the Pacific is especially important from a geopolitical point of view, with the USA/China fight in the region, e.g. Solomon Islands. Switzerland being neutral is not part of this and provides the opportunity to assist with

multi-lateral discussions, offering islands to open offices in Geneva, also for support regarding climate change, human rights etc. Uni QLD has a project to develop low emission concrete to the Islands, Switzerland ranks number one in the innovation index re climate; Vanuatu agreement, Paris agreement art. 6.2, to bring technology to the Islands for clean energy and reduction of CO2 emission. There are many more such examples.

Regarding voting rights in the UN, countries have their voices heard, establish diplomatic relations, with every other country in the world we have diplomatic relations. Also improve Chinese relations, yet without a current strategy, same as the ASEAN countries, but the pacific countries have been forgotten, our task is to raise awareness of these countries, Tuvalu e.g. has asked for assistance.

Q: Are there any scholarships offered in NZ?

A: Academic scholarships are available, but there have been no applications.

General discussion that this is perhaps because there is no knowledge about them. Scholarships also apply to the Islands; people do not know about these.

Caroline: next year a website will be updated to make these more known. Twitter and Facebook and Unis are informed about scholarships, lots of interest, but no one from the Pacific Islands ever apply. Two biggest unis are in Fiji, perhaps have a look at them. Peter Ehrler has good connections.

LATEST NEWS FROM THE OSA – Filippo Lombardi (via Zoom) & Carmen Trochsler

As president of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA), Filippo sends greetings to all on behalf of the team in Bern and apologies for not being in Canberra but says he will be here next time. (Great news from the ice hockey arena: we defeated Kloten 6:2!)

Filippo was elected as new president of four years in August 2021. It was a huge pleasure for him to meet everyone in August 2022 at the congress of the Swiss Abroad in Lugano, taking place again after three years. There is a community spirit where people can get to know each other again.

Basic issues of Swiss abroad are the democratic participation, the ongoing question about the AHV, bank accounts for Swiss abroad. These are the traditional items that are being worked on in parliament and on the board and with the council of the Swiss abroad.

Two priorities during this period are additional to the traditional ones; the first: more young Swiss abroad to join in our activities on global, clubs, national, regional levels. And the second: communication. There is a platform available, but this is not enough. The board will discuss this with the Minister of Swiss Affairs. OSA will have seminars in several countries. First in Italy, Germany and France and then more around the world. This is surely of interest to the Swiss communities in Australia, and Oceania. Willingness to bring additional instruments and Switzerland will discuss with OSA concrete proposals to bring new access possibilities for communications.

He thanks everyone and apologises again for not being here in person and that Carmen, who is a member of the executive board of the OSA, will explain what they are doing.

Carmen Trochsler: mentions that it is a pleasure to represent the OSA, Filippo is former member of the Swiss Federal Parliament and is now the President of the OSA.

She complements Filippo's message with a brief overview of the organisation, the communication channels and the results of a needs survey conducted earlier this year. Carmen as well, stresses the importance and benefits of collaboration between the different groups and institutions to meet the needs of the Swiss in the region. The online event on "Education in Switzerland" in October, which was organised by the OSA delegates & the SAA in collaboration with the Swiss Embassy and the support of the Swiss Consulate General and Swiss Clubs was very well received and a great example of such collaboration.

She concludes that, in order to be of service to the Swiss, including the younger generation and those in regional areas, collaboration and communication is key and the OSA is grateful to have the SAA as an important partner and link.

Carmen asks if Filippo has anything to add and he confirms that Carmen has said only the truth. :)

➔ See Carmen's presentation, Appendix page 17.

LATEST NEWS FROM THE FDFA IN BERN - Laurent Perriard Deputy Director of the Consular Directorate, FDFA

Fifty-five representatives work in Bern coordinating the policy of the Swiss abroad. Laurent is responsible for the Swiss abroad to be sure to talk about and make sure the interests of the Swiss abroad are taken into account.

Active for consular protection, digitalisation and international relations. He is meeting with interior and foreign affairs ministers in Australia. Discussed bilateral programmes, visa for engineers, scholarships, training, labour market, sure that consular matters and bilateral relations services are brought to the Swiss abroad. Also regarding the Pacific islands, even if NZ, Australia and Manila are in charge, there is a physical discussion with the Swiss. Productive discussions were held yesterday, and they plan to meet once a year.

Australia and NZ are important migration countries. We help them prepare for this with manuals on our website in twelve countries. The website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been updated. Another topic is that many Swiss are retiring abroad. Twenty-three percent, or one in every six Swiss abroad is over sixty-five. Either people are already abroad, or they move abroad to retire. Again, all information is on the website.

Swiss Review Notes from the Federal Palace. They also finance the Swiss Review.

New passport with extra page for the Fifth Switzerland. (All cantons and now an extra page for the 5th Switzerland.) A symbolic element, but even in Bern this idea that twelve per cent of Swiss live abroad and have their own page, is a positive change. A note that the current passport is still valid and does not need to be replaced with this new one until it expires. Passports in Australia must be made in Sydney, there is a mobile station that travels around the country; there is one station in Wellington and one in Sydney.

Elections will be held in 2023. There is a new centralised website (www.ch.ch/en/) where information for the Swiss abroad site is now available.

E-voting which was discontinued in 2019 will be available again. This is a new system which was redeveloped and retried. Three cantons, Thurgau, Basel Stadt and St Gallen will try this out. Next vote in June 2023. E-voting replaces putting the votes in an envelope and posting these. However,

the information and the actual ballot cards will still be sent by post. Therefore, e-voting is only one way. If the envelopes arrive too late, it is still not possible to vote. But they are working on this.

⊃ See Laurent's presentation, Appendix page 19.

NEW APP FOR THE SWISS ABROAD: SwissInTouch is the new app for the Swiss abroad. Uzbekistan and Nauru are the only countries without Swiss nationals, every other country in the world has Swiss nationals. The app will go live on Thursday, 24 November if possible. It is a webapp, i.e. not available on google play or in the apple store; you must get it through the ch.ch website.

What can it do? Communication primarily, social media, review apps, post information, video, images, articles. Bern uploads information that they think is important for Swiss Abroad.

Information is also available for those before they emigrate, about births, deaths, divorce etc. It is directly linked to the country you live in. Make sure you include in the profile when you register where you physically are to receive the relevant information from your country. You can choose up to five countries from which to get the information.

See Laurent's presentation, Appendix page 20.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q: Are there any other apps??

A: Yes traveladmin.ch in app stores (www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home/representations-and-travel-advice/travel-advice/travel-admin-app.html). This is an app for traveling, advising of problems, catastrophes, earthquakes etc. During covid we used this app to find the Swiss travelling and could repatriate 23,000 people. You can also check for example, the countries not to go to.

Q: Regarding the elections in 2024; we usually have problems getting information regarding the Ständerat, we receive a ballot paper but without names. Are there any changes envisaged?

A: This is a cantonal matter, you can find the information on the website, but you must know who the candidates are. Sending more paper around the world does not make sense. I will talk to the Federal Chancellery on how this could best be relayed to the Swiss abroad.

Q: Will you not help up us in strange countries if the Australians should?

A: We will always help you, but you may have to pay. If it is too dangerous for our people to help you, we will not help you. However, in cases of dual nationality the country of the predominant nationality will help you. If you are binational, often we cannot help you. Swiss Abroad Act. Refer to it for the legal framework. Personal responsibility is required – information is on the website.

Q: Regarding consular assistance, does it matter with which passport you travel? A: It depends. What kind of registration at the border, e.g. a lady was recently imprisoned in Belarus, she is Swiss/Belarusian and went to rally against Lukashenko. Switzerland had to act because of political pressure.

CONSULATE UPDATE & SHORT INTRODUCTION – Cornelia Camenzind, Consul-General of Switzerland, Sydney

Cornelia expresses thanks for the opportunity to meet everyone. She introduces herself, saying that she has been working for the foreign ministry for thirty-four years, thirty of which abroad. She also thanks Bernadette Hunkeler Brown for leaving behind a well-oiled consulate.

Cornelia provides general information on the duties of the consulate in Sydney. Registrations, births, marriages, divorce, deaths. Passports, and the introduction of the mobile passport stations, hoping to do two annual rotations to service all states in two years. The FDFA has an online desk to request information online. Many forms are available on the consulate's website:www.eda.admin.ch/sydney.

The Swiss clubs are also listed on the website. Should the information not be current, to please contact the consulate. The last update was in March 2022.

Regarding natural and other disasters, 80% of the Swiss are dual nationals. The Consulate will always help although Australia will help first.

All services regarding visas are also offered.

The entire crew at the consulate is new. Andrea Koeppel can be contacted to answer any questions that are not covered on the website.

There are honorary consuls in all states. These should be the first point of contact e.g. accidents, or for networking and connecting to the right people. These honorary consuls are:

- Northern Territory (Darwin) Sonia Paspaley
- Queensland (Brisbane) Daniel Gschwind
- South Australia (Adelaide) Patrick Wille
- Tasmania (Hobart) Prof. Dr. Margaret Otlowski
- Victoria (Melbourne) Manuela Erb
- Western Australia (Perth) Marc Montandon

Cornelia provides an overview of further items the consulate is involved with:

- Business communities deepening their relationships which are growing despite the distance
- Trade and cultural exchange
- Working with Swisscham
- Education how to study in Switzerland
- Culture and arts, bringing the Swiss culture closer to Australia, Pro Helvetia supports cultural issues from both countries
- Switzerland Tourism have their office in the same building as the consulate; they provide services to connect to local travel agencies to promote Switzerland.

Find all information on the website eda.admin.ch/Sydney.

And as a final word, Cornelia thanks everyone for their interaction. The Consulate is here to serve the Swiss in Australia. They look forward to staying in touch.

EMBASSY'S CRISIS MANAGEMENT AND RESPONSE TO NATURAL DISASTERS – Viktor Vavricka

Viktor provides a few statistics from New Zealand.

There are not only earthquakes in New Zealand, floods are actually worse, but earthquakes are high on the agenda. The Geonet app must be downloaded. There are three earthquakes every two days!

- 1855 8.3 on the Richter scale, worst earthquake recorded. Tsunami with 11m high waves
- 1931 7.8 on the Richter scale with 250 deaths
- 2011 6.3 on the Richter scale with 185 deaths in Christchurch
- 2016 there were two victims
- 2019 volcanic eruption on White Island where 22 people died

Due to Covid, there were two thousand deaths in New Zealand with a repatriation of Swiss tourists in 2020. Honorary consuls are particularly important in these situations, next year a conference is planned with them. The Embassy must be prepared on all levels at all times. Adrian (Honorary Consul in Wellington) received a crisis management role which was applied during the Covid repatriation.

POLITICAL RIGHTS FOR SWISS ABROAD

E-voting – will eventually be implemented. That the receipt of voting material has many hiccups is known in Switzerland who is working on the dispatch issues, tests are ongoing, and being discussed in parliament. In February 2023, a report will be submitted regarding these tests and will provide conclusions and how to move forward.

The Embassy's role is also to promote political education among the Swiss community. Information channels are available, e.g. www.ch.ch/en & www.swissinfo.ch/eng, as well as fact sheets. It is important to ensure that the information is there to enable political rights.

Members are welcome to come to the embassy with ideas on how to promote political education.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q: I vote from Zurich which is always late. Why are some cantons earlier than others?

A: In the federal elections, it is a logistical problem due to time when the ballots are printed and the time they are sent out. Legislation, it is allowed for the cantons to send the envelope only one week before sending it to the canton. It's not legal to send the papers earlier than one week before.

It is no longer possible to choose in which canton one can vote.

Q: Is there a time when you have to register a child to become Swiss nationality?

A: if you're born to a Swiss parent, you are automatically a Swiss citizen. They register the birth at the home. Information regarding naturalisation: it takes between eleven and twenty-four months depending on the process in the cantons. You must be registered to register your child as Swiss. If you are not registered, it is pretty simple up to the age of eighteen, otherwise it is a procedure that goes through Swiss authorities. The Consulate knows more details.

SUPERANNUATION & THE NEW ZEALAND PENSION SYSTEM – Peter Ehrler, CSA NZ

Peter knows they are always complaining about the AHV in New Zealand. He says they did not achieve what they had wanted, but it was noted in Switzerland.

SUMMARY OF WHAT HAPPENS IN NZ: NZ is one of five countries that has a superannuation system without contributing anything. The only conditions are you had to be in NZ at least for 10 years, this has now changed to 20 years. If you receive a NZ pension, you cannot receive any other pension. Some are entitled to a pension from overseas, but this is deducted off you superannuation.

If you receive a Swiss pension in NZ, you do not receive a NZ pension, even if you have been there for 30 years and have paid taxes. So if you receive Swiss pension, you would not apply for the NZ pension.

Peter hopes that NZ will achieve a social security agreement with the Swiss.

NZ needs to know any increase in pension every two years to adjust to the economy so they can deduct this. NZ citizens could write to Switzerland, asking to split it up into compulsory and voluntary contributions. Peter hopes that during Viktor's term changes could be made in this regard. He confirms that the Ambassador will have this help from the Swiss community.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q: Is pension the same for everyone.

AL: Yes, everyone gets the same when they turn sixty-five.

Q: If someone is from any other nationality, does it apply to them?

A: Yes about 50 countries are affected, however, e.g. the USA no longer send pensions to NZ residents.

Viktor suggests a new agreement with the EU and NZ, might be able resolve something? Brussels says, it's the countries' problem not their problem.

THE SAA: AIMS AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS - Claude Alain Staub, SAA President

The whole is greater than the sum of its parts - Aristotle

Why an Umbrella Organisation?

SAA is not just an agency, it is run by the clubs for the clubs. All have equal votes. Composition of the committee are the clubs, elections for the SAA are coming up shortly. CSA delegates no voting rights.

SAA Constitution identifies fifteen aims and objectives – four key performance indicators operating from 2023

⇒ See Claude's presentation, Appendix page 22.

The SAA: UPDATE ON THE INSURANCE OFFER – Martin Scarpino, SAA Treasurer

Could the insurance be an incentive to join the SAA?

Make sure your club is incorporated otherwise if something happens, the individuals of the group would be liable themselves. The people who come to the event as well as the members are protected.

So far, the SAA has saved approx. \$10,000 for the members by not having to have their own insurance.

Apart from insurance, the SAA also can offer a discounted subscription to the Tages Anzeiger and the possibility to open an OFX personal account to transfer funds to and from Switzerland.

For more, go to the website: www.swissallianceaustralia.org.

⇒ See Martin's presentation, Appendix page 23.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q: Does AHV transfer to OFX in AUD or CHF?

A: They can do it to the OFX account and you can send it to your own account whenever you like.

Q: Cercle Romand are we covered at our Castle Hill stall?

A: Yes

Q: Can I still be a member of the SAA if I don't want to be a member of the insurance?

A: No, you cannot be a member of the SAA if you don't want the insurance.

AUSTRALIA-WIDE SWISS CARE NETWORK – Katja Wallimann Gates & Regula Scheidegger

The aim is to work together on the national network as a care society. The Swiss community care societies help the elderly, disabled, people affected by disasters, tourists, provide help with technology e.g. upload Covid certificates, apps etc. Information goes to the community to let them know when they need to contact the consulate.

Other things they do are carry out chores, provide transport to appointments, send out birthday cards and call people to make sure they are ok.

Katja and Regula ask that the Consulate provide them current information e.g. in case of a death of member etc.

Presentation food for thought on how to create a better network to help each other

Q: Are the people being helped covered by public liability?

A: All members are covered under public liability, but people who need help who are not members are not insured, we just care for them. If people do something on behalf of the care society, they are covered.

Laurent P: thanks everyone on behalf of Bern, that people are looking after themselves and that

this is how it should be. He has a budget in Bern and says that if there is a need for financial support to send a request. Also, there is information on the website about retiring abroad, and aging abroad and further sources of information being developed.

⊃ See Katja & Regula's presentation, Appendix page 24.

E-LIBRARY OF SWISS MIGRANT BIOGRAPHIES – Beat Knoblauch

Beat begins saying he is talking about an idea and the need to look into the future. In order to preserve the heritage of the Swiss in Australia this should somehow be put in order. The idea is also based on his conviction that the value-added amount the Swiss abroad have done for Switzerland has never really been appreciated or established in a numeric way.

Some four years ago, a study was to be made, but was abandoned due to lack of funds. The impetus has to come from the Swiss abroad here. Some visitors from Australia saw the exhibition in the Landesmuseum in Schwyz "Die Schweiz anderswo" a few years ago, however, there was no mention of Oceania. Another impetus was that the Swiss don't really know what the Swiss abroad do.

Re e-library, Beat asks who has digitalised their archives and only Victoria has done so so far.

Beat mentions the project of a "Digital Museum of the Swiss Abroad". Johann Roduit, a CSA delegate from Canada wants to promote this idea. He is looking for funding which is pending. Swiss collections which are all over the world could be documented.

Beat also refers to the members Portrait Art project in Victoria, where members of the Swiss Club are captured.

Help from the Swiss clubs needed and to remain conscious of the Swiss achievements and hardships.

See Beat's presentation, Appendix page 26.

SAA WEBSITE / SWISS REVIEW – Carmen Trochsler representing Roland Isler

Carmen says a big thank-you to Roland for organising the meeting, all the goodies etc.

Roland is the editor of Oceania pages of the Swiss Review. The magazine has undergone a refresh. The design is new, and content has been rearranged, with the Swiss community section at the front, it is colour coded to distinguish between the different sections. Blue is the colour of the Regional News Oceania.

Even though the magazine is provided free of charge, it is acknowledged that it is not for everyone. It seems the further people are away geographically from Switzerland the less they are interested in Swiss things.

Roland tries to find a balance of news, more of a mirror to what has happened between issues. Carmen relays that Roland thanks everyone for their contribution and to please think of the Swiss Review first if they hear of any news.

See Roland's presentation, Appendix page 28.

Carmen presents the website of the SAA (www.swissallianceaustralia.org), and in particular explains the latest feature: the 'Swiss Events in Australia' calendar. 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. They are welcome to post their non-commercial community events on this calendar free of charge. The aim is that it will become the ultimate go-to place for anyone that is interested to find out what the Swiss community in Australia is up to.

Another feature is the 'Members Area' – a login section where SAA member clubs and their members have acess to special services and benefits provided by the SAA.

OPEN FORUM: Club Presidents

Othmar Hebler: Swiss Society of New Zealand

Cecile Scherrer – advises low-cost car rental for anyone visiting Switzerland: Heim car rental in Winterthur Marcel Heim Automiete, 180 CHF to rent for one week. https://guenstigautomieten.ch/wp/

Rolf Huber: Swiss Festival Melbourne – Swiss Festival Inc.

Aim is to organise Swiss Festival with Swiss events. Held in 2022 after an extended period after Covid. All are volunteers, but are always looking for sponsorship, stall holders and entertainment. Save the date around 18/19 November in Melbourne, Mornington Peninsula.

⇒ See Rolf's presentation, Appendix page 29.

COMMUNICATION - COLLABORATION - INNOVATION

Various, open discussion ALL

Katja talks about the museum tour tomorrow. (Roland has organised all this – thank you!)

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION – Claude Alain Staub

Claude thanks Lynn Stocker, Barbara Koeppel for taking the minutes, Martin Frutiger for the photography, Swiss Embassy, Canberra, especially Caroline Bichet-Anthamatten for hosting the conference.

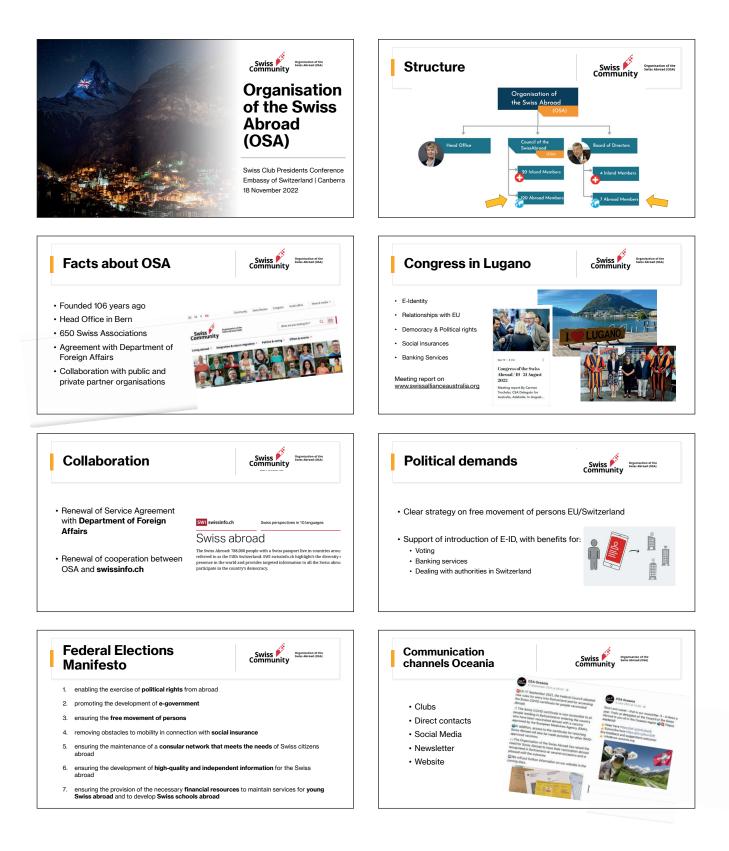
The SAA AGM will take place 7 December 2022

Claude asks to contribute to the discussions and projects that will shape the future of tomorrow's Swiss Clubs

Next Meeting: not discussed

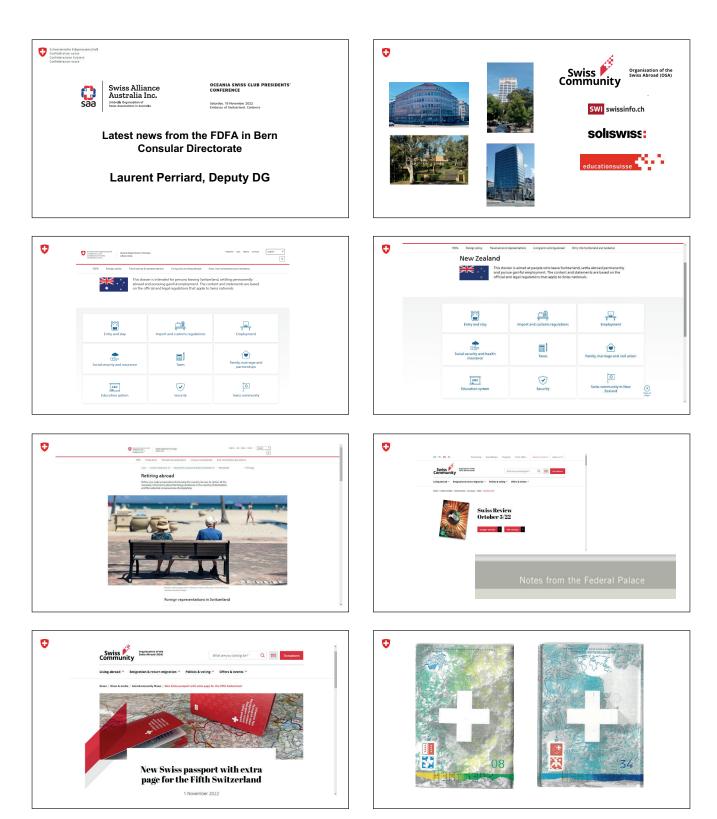
Appendix:

LATEST NEWS FROM THE OSA – Filippo Lombardi (via Zoom) & Carmen Trochsler



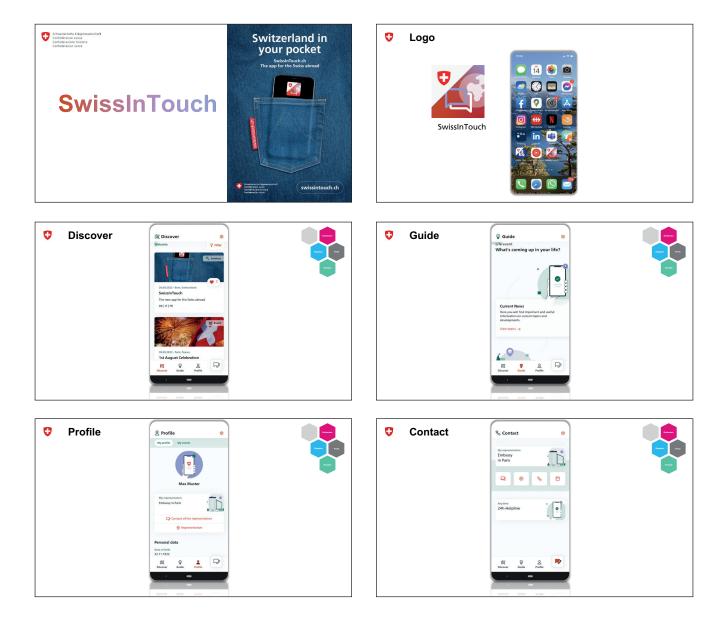


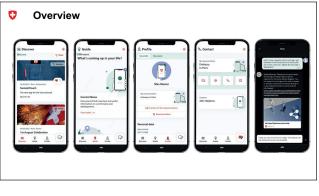
LATEST NEWS FROM THE FDFA IN BERN - Laurent Perriard















THE SAA: AIMS AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS - Claude Alain Staub





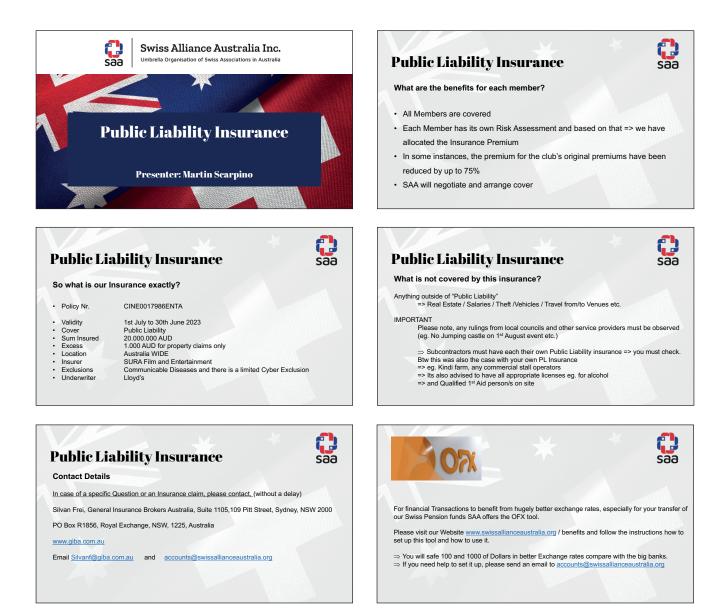
Four key performance indicators					
(B) Development of	(C) Streamline Web	(D) Corporate			
Swiss Clubs	Communications	partnerships			
Sub-Committee	Sub-Committee	Sub-Committee			
Swiss Club	Marketing &	Finance & Corporate			
Development	Communications	Partnerships			
CHAIR	CHAIR	CHAIR			
Claude Alain Staub	Roland Isler	Martin Scarpino			
President	Vice-President	Treasurer			
Resource – Presidents App Governance support Resource – Care Societies Resource – Arts Project Resource – New Clubs	Coordinate – Web Content Coordinate – Ev Calendar Coordinate – Publications	Finance Committee Insurance project Corporate partnerships			
	(B) Development of Swiss Clubs Sub-Committee Swiss Club Development Claude Alain Staub President Resource – Presidents App Governance support Resource – Care Societies Resource – Arts Project	(B) Development of Swiss Clubs (C) Streamline Web Communications Sub-Committee Swiss Club Development Sub-Committee Marketing & Communications Claude Akin Staub President ChAR Claude Akin Staub President CHAR Roland Isler Vice-President Resource – Presidents App Geowrance support Resource – Care Societes Resource – Care Societes Coordinate – Ev Calendar Coordinate – Publications			



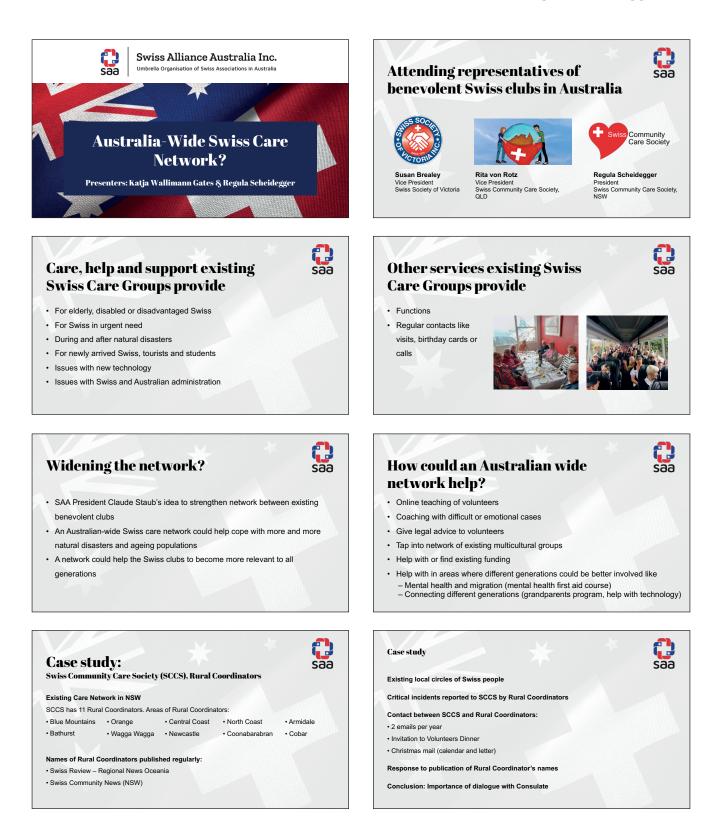
The Committee

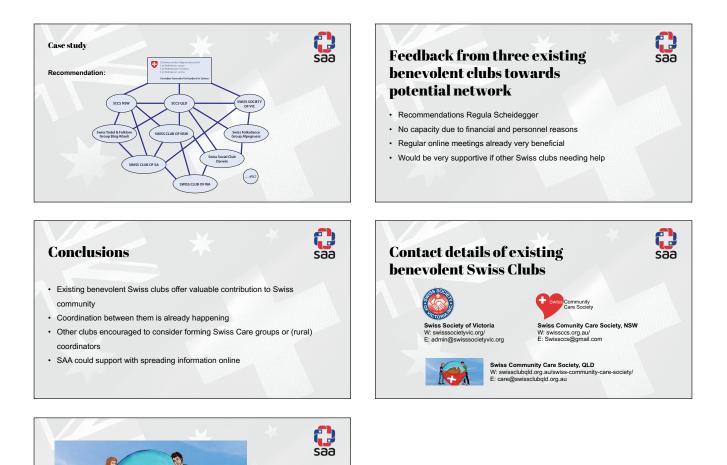
		Swiss Society of Victoria
		CSA Delegate VIC
Martin Scarpino		Swiss Yodlers of Sydney
Katja Wallimann Gates		CSA Delegate QLD
Carmen Trochsler		CSA Delegate SA
Beat Knoblauch	Committee	CSA Delegate NSW
Silvio Gmur		Swiss Club of NSW
Regula Scheidegger		Swiss Community Care Society
Marianne Pearson	Committee	Swiss Community Care Society
Philippe Coquerand	Committee	Swiss Society of Queensland
Christian Dubois		Cercle Romand

The SAA: UPDATE ON THE INSURANCE OFFER - Martin Scarpino



AUSTRALIA-WIDE SWISS CARE NETWORK – Katja Wallimann Gates & Regula Scheidegger





Q and A

(Enrica Brazzelli, created for the facebook grou Swiss Care QLD COVID-19 Community Support)

E-LIBRARY OF SWISS MIGRANT BIOGRAPHIES – Beat Knoblauch / Carfmen Trochsler





SWISS REVIEW - Carmen Trochsler representing Roland Isler



SWISS FESTIVAL - Rolf Huber





OVERVIEW

- ST Deck chairs

LOCATION The Pig & Whistle Tavern, Main Ridge THEME "Say Cheese... Or Chocolate!" EVENT VOERNEW - Outdoor & Green venue - Live onstage program - Cheese and Chocolate Train Scavenger Hunt - Gift bags - Raffie SWITZERLAND TOURISM TOUCHPOINTS - Cheese and Chocolate Train Scavenger Hunt booklets & Parels - Gift bag inclusion - Signage - Fiyer distribution - Sponschip panel logo inclusion - Social Pots









- 800 entry tickets sold - 700+ attendees - 1500 raffle tickets sold

- 1000+ website visits (1-Sep – 1-Oct) - 500+ giftbags distributed - 500+ scavenger hunt participants



