

REGIONAL NEWS

OCEANIA

Please note:
Next Editorial Deadline
7 September 2021

Spotlight on our Swiss Italian heritage



Swiss Italian Festa, back in 2021!

The **Swiss Italian Festa** in the Victorian town of Hepburn Springs, is a community festival that celebrates the important contribution of Swiss Italian migrants who came to that region in the years 1853-54 looking for gold. Of those Italian-speakers around 2,000 came from the villages and towns of the southern canton of Ticino, joined also by many from across the border in Lombardy and Piemonte. Into a world of mutton, potatoes and beer, they brought salami, pasta and wine!

The early Swiss Italians recognised the quality of the local mineral springs and lobbied to protect them from the destructive practices of the prospectors. They started building stone houses with cellars and wells. They planted grape vines, olive trees and orchards. Australia's first pasta factory was built in 1859, and still stands in Hepburn Springs.

The Festa draws on the traditions of these early settlers. It's a celebration of 170 years of continuing culture of good food, wine and architecture of that region that is built on that legacy.

After a four-year absence the Festa will return to Hepburn Shire over four days from 21-24 October 2021.

<https://swissitalianfesta.com/>

Most comprehensive record of Swiss Italian migration history – now published in English

On 23 March CSA delegate Roland Isler joined the many descendants of Swiss Italian settlers in Hepburn Springs for the community launch of the English translation of 'The Emigration of Swiss Italians to the Australian Gold Rush', by Giorgio Cheda, who researched and published the book in Italian in the 1970s. The launch took place, very appropriately, at the Hotel Bellinzona and served as a prelude to the opening of the Swiss Italian Festa in October. The official launch took place on 10 May at the State Library of Victoria in Melbourne.



This truly monumental work is a collection of over 300 documents, mostly letters, that were written by Swiss Italians that followed the lure of the Victorian gold rush of the 1850s. The letters reveal the daily life of miners, the hardship of the long and arduous journey and the sense of loss to leave loved ones behind. But they also mention success stories of forging new lives in a new country. The book also provides a detailed analysis of the economic and political crisis prevailing in Ticino that led to the exodus of many peasants and the poor. It also describes the unscrupulous practices of government officials, emigration agencies, money-lenders and opportunists who took advantage of those who had to leave their home country to earn a modest living.

The enormous task of translating it from Italian into English was undertaken by Antonio Pagliaro, and with the support of the Italian Australian Institute the work was published as a two-volume set of over 600 pages each. This important historic account of early Swiss emigration is now available to everyone interested in the past of our community. It can be bought from the online bookshop of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria: www.historyvictoria.org.au



CSA delegate Roland Isler (left) with Dr Antonio Pagliaro





Election of Australian delegates to serve on The Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA) for the term 2021–2025

It's time to vote!

Four applications have been received in response to the Call for Candidates to stand for election to the Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA) which was published in the January issue of the Swiss Review. These applicants are the four current delegates that hold the four seats for which Australia is entitled to. The short version of their profile is listed below. To find out more about each candidate, view their extended profile on www.swissallianceaustralia.org

Following the published election process, and in accordance with democratic principles, it is now up to the eligible voters to elect their representatives on the Council of the Swiss Abroad for the term 2021-2025!



ROLAND ISLER

Place of Residence: Melbourne, Victoria

Profession: Graphic Designer; Head of Print Services, Caulfield Grammar School

Living in Australia since: 1982

Interests: History & the Arts, Politics & Current Affairs, the Swiss in Australia.

What is your connection and/or involvement in the Swiss community in Australia?

- Elected member of the CSA since 2009;
- *Swiss Review* Regional Editor for Oceania since 2017;
- Chair and Organiser of the Oceania Swiss Club Presidents' Conference in Melbourne 2016;
- Hon. Life Member and Past-President of the Swiss Club of Victoria;
- Member of the Swiss Society of Victoria Assistance Committee;
- Founding member of the Swiss Alliance Australia Inc.

Why would you like to remain a member of the Council of the Swiss Abroad?

I love Switzerland, its history and culture, and most of all the people – wherever they live. My strong sense of community and years of experience make me a passionate and effective champion for the Swiss in Australia.



BEAT KNOBLAUCH

Place of Residence: Sydney, New South Wales

Profession: Business & Financial Advisor (lic.iur. University Berne)

Living in Australia since: 1976

Interests: Politics, Economics, History, Art (collector of Australian Aboriginal Art), Literature, Choir, Tennis, Cycling.

What is your connection and/or involvement in the Swiss community in Australia?

Past-President of SACCI (now SwissCham) • Past-President of Swiss University Graduates Australia • Member of the Swiss Club of NSW • Vice-President of the Swiss Community Care Society • Founding President of the Swiss Alliance Australia (new umbrella organisation of Swiss clubs in Australia) • Chair and Organiser of the Oceania Swiss Club Presidents' Conference in Canberra 2014 & Sydney 2018 • Contributor to Swiss Club magazine • Elected member of the CSA since 2009.

Why would you like to remain a member of the Council of the Swiss Abroad?

Committed Delegate to defend and fight for all rights and obligations of Swiss Abroad at all levels. Assist individual requests, like for Swiss bank accounts, recognition of Swiss qualifications in Australia, e-voting, old age insurance.



CARMEN TROCHSLER

Place of Residence: Adelaide, South Australia

Profession: Business Consultant, iuvio consulting | Swiss Lawyer | MLaw (St. Gallen), MBA (Adelaide)

Living in Australia since: 2010

Interests: Family and friends, explore Australia and the world, outdoor sport, graphic design & photography, reading.

What is your connection and/or involvement in the Swiss community in Australia?

- Member of Swiss Club of South Australia since 2011 (Committee 2011-2014);
- Producer/Presenter at community radio station 5EBI 2012-2017;
- Founder of swissdownunder.org;
- Elected Delegate of the Council of the Swiss Abroad since 2015 (activities see www.csa-oceania.org);
- Board member of the Swiss Chamber of Commerce Australia since 2019.

Why would you like to remain a member of the Council of the Swiss Abroad?

I enjoy the contact with other Swiss and tackling issues that matter to the Swiss abroad. My open and proactive approach, coupled with my professional experience and network in both countries can help identify and address the needs of the Swiss Abroad effectively.

Call to Vote

Eligible voters are requested to use either the printed Ballot paper below on this page or the one available to download at www.swissallianceaustralia.org

Please note that copies/printouts of this Ballot paper are acceptable, as long as they are completed and signed by hand. The voter's name on the Ballot should be the same as the name registered with the Consulate General of Switzerland.

Voters may elect any number of the four candidates listed.

The completed Ballot paper should be emailed to the person in charge of election coordination, Martin Scarpino, treasurer/



KATJA WALLIMANN GATES

Place of Residence: Brisbane, Queensland

Profession: Homemaker, Biologist

Living in Australia since: 1994

Interests: People, nature, politics, arts, travel.

What is your connection and/or involvement in the Swiss community in Australia?

- Swiss Society QLD: Member 26 years (y), editor Swiss News QLD 4y;
- Swiss Yodel Group: Member 26y, organiser Children's dance group 6y, Secretary 1y, President 7y;
- Swiss Mothers Play Group Brisbane: Organiser 3y;
- Swiss Care Qld: Member, volunteer Swiss Care Covid support group;
- Council of the Swiss Abroad: Delegate 4y;
- Swiss Alliance Australia: Founding Committee member;
- Attendance: CSA meetings in Geneva, Visp, Montreux, Berne and now online, Swiss Presidents Conferences in Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney.

Why would you like to become a member of the Council of the Swiss Abroad?

It would be an honour to be your representative for four more years. The last ones were challenging and interesting, but I hope I have proven to you that I worked hard and passionate on your behalf.

secretary of the Swiss Alliance Australia Inc (SAA), on cselection2021@gmail.com or posted to:

Swiss Alliance Australia
Att: Martin Scarpino
c/- Schweizer Kobras
P.O. Box H283
Australia Square NSW 1215

Due date for Ballots to be received by the SAA is **COB Wednesday, 30 June**. Ballots received after the due date can not be accepted.

WHO CAN VOTE?

To be eligible, you must be:

- a Swiss citizen residing in Australia
- 18 years and over
- registered with the Consulate General of Switzerland in Sydney

Election Results

The Ballots will be verified and counted by the election coordinator with the assistance of the Consulate General of Switzerland. By first week July, the election results will be submitted to the OSA and announced on the SAA website www.swissallianceaustralia.org and relevant social media channels.

The constituent meeting of the newly elected Council for the term 2021-2025 will take place on 20 August. Due to the ongoing Corona situation, the Congress has been cancelled for the second year and the Council meeting will be conducted online. A meeting report and election results will appear in edition 5/21 of the 'Swiss Review – Regional News Oceania' which will be published on Friday, 8 October.



BALLOT to elect the Australian delegates to the Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA) for the term 2021-2025

I elect:

(please tick either one, two, three or all of the candidate listed below):

ROLAND ISLER

CARMEN TROCHSLER

BEAT KNOBLAUCH

KATJA WALLIMANN GATES

Declaration:

I, Full name _____

D.O.B. _____

declare that I fulfil all requirements to be eligible to vote in these elections

Signed: _____

To be received by no later than **COB Wednesday, 30 June 2021** by mail to Swiss Alliance Australia, Att: Martin Scarpino, c/- Schweizer Kobras, P.O. Box H283, Australia Square NSW 1215, or email to cselection2021@gmail.com

Community News and Events



Fun time at the Hamilton Swiss Club weekend at Ohakune



All dressed-up for the Fraser Coast Harmony Day



Yodel Choir & Folklore Group 'Baerg-Roeseli' hard at work



NZ: Hamilton Swiss Club

9-11/4: 18 Members and friends arrived at Station Lodge Ohakune for the Ruaphehu Hiking Weekend, with nice accommodation for everyone. Although the weather was a bit of a mixed bag, everyone had a great time. Next year is already booked at the same venue, 1st April 2022 – two weeks before Easter. Diarize now please!

30/4: The Hamilton Club AGM was held in Cambridge. This was the first time in about forty years that the AGM wasn't held at Swisscraft. Many thanks for attending this evening and showing your continuous support to the club.

Upcoming Events:

5&6/6: Jass Competition and Swiss Society AGM to be held at the Matangi Hall. Everyone interested in attending these events should have booked through their club secretary in May. Start times in April issue of Helvetia.

11/6: 3rd card evening at 7.30pm at the Union Parish Church in Cambridge.

25/6: 4th card evening – as above.

9/7: 5th and final card evening – as above.

1/8: Swiss National Day celebration to be held at the Matangi Hall with a lunch-time function. A newsletter will

be posted or emailed to club members a couple of weeks beforehand. Bookings will be required for this function.

For further information, or if you are happy to receive your newsletter via email, please email anita.zuber@swiss.org.nz or phone 0274 985 170.

NZ: Taranaki Swiss Club

Keglen, Jassen, small bore shooting and karabiner shooting have recommenced for this calendar year. For further information on these events please ring Othmar on 06 2786878 or 027 6778915 or Marianne on 06 7628757. We're all looking forward to the Fondue Evening, Swiss Society medals competition and the Swiss Society AGM, National Jassen Tournament and final of the Cowbell Competition to be held in Hamilton at Queen's Birthday Weekend. Please support your club in attending as many functions as possible.

Upcoming Events:

13&20/6: Jassen from 1.15pm

20/6: Small bore shooting with the final Championship Shoot from 1pm

3/7: The fabulous Anniversary Shoot, with the delicious sauerkraut, pickled red cabbage and pork meal served at 5.30pm. This is a function not to miss. Give shooting or keglen a go, and every

participant will receive a small prize of cervelas!

11&18/7: Jassen at 1.15pm

31/7: Celebrate Swiss National Day with plenty of Swiss music and entertainment, our great Swiss tombola and the absolutely delicious 'Swiss' supper! Another function that is a must to attend! See you there!

NSW: Swiss Yodlers of Sydney

We continue planning for the 1. August Swiss National Day Celebration with our traditional Family Picnic at Castle Hill Showground, which falls precisely on the Sunday, 1 August! More details will be available nearer the date as much will (still) depend on the circumstances of the weeks and months ahead. The Swiss Seniors' Luncheon on the last Thursday in July at the German Concordia Club, Tempe is intended to be the day for our first 'live appearance'.

The German Sangerfest in Canberra on the Long October Weekend will be another highlight. To be participating with many other German-Language Choirs (+15 in total last time) from around Australia is a very gratifying experience, in particular the Massed Choir consisting of over 350 Singers which we enjoyed back in 2014.

With all the 'hard work' ahead of us, we also insist having a good time every time! And we invite anyone interested in singing, to come to Chatswood, where we practice every Monday at the new time of 7pm. You are welcome to come and see for yourself.

Dear Parents, would you like your child/children to sing in a Children's Choir learning and performing Swiss children's songs? Perhaps you/they are playing an instrument, that would suit to accompany the little singers? Please consider whether this would be an opportunity to connect with 'what is Swiss' in Australia. We look forward to hearing from you!

For any enquiries, please contact: Alois Kretz (President), 9419 7277; Sepp Engesser (Conductor), 9659 6232; Karin Attewell (Treasurer), 8964 4434

NSW: Cercle Romand

Getting close to mid-year and the club has been able to hold our first two planned events.

On 28 February our **Brunch and Pétanque** event was successfully attended with more than 26 participants competing for the 'Trophée Paul Lambert'. Congratulations to our winner Maria and André. We were grateful to have enjoyed a beautiful day in the outdoor with good company. There was a sense of freedom in the air. **Cinema, Pasta & Pizza** night was held

on 24 April in Chippendale. We watched a French movie and enjoyed Italian food in a restaurant nearby. It was great to see the night life in Sydney recovering.

The details for each activity are published on the club website www.cercleromand.com.au where location, time and booking information can be found. The following events are planned for the next few months.

Upcoming Events:

27/6: Promenade and Pub – The itinerary will be published on our website and newsletter.

1/8: The Cercle Romand traditional raclette stall will be part of the festivities organised for the **Swiss National Day**.

22/8: Our **AGM** will take place at Drummoynne Sailing Club.

The committee thanks all its members for supporting our club 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

NSW: Swiss Community Care Society (SCCS NSW)

I hope you agree: we are so blessed here in Australia with an almost normal life. COVID, which is still raging in other parts of the world, seems nearly non-existent. We are grateful that SCCS

is therefore able to organise some functions, which we have listed on our website (swissccs.org.au). Please have a look around to find out what we have been up to and what is in store for the rest of the year.

To those Swiss people who do not live in the Sydney area, may I suggest that you check the list below.

Perhaps you have an idea for a 'local' get together or you could start a Jass group. One of our coordinators would be more than happy to help you to find like-minded Swiss friends. The winter months are perfect for both indoor and outdoor gatherings.

Our Rural Coordinators are:

Central Coast:

■ Gerhard Moser, (02) 4322 3588
gerhard@homeloanguru.com.au

■ Rita Schaad, (02) 4956 2272
maritahl@optusnet.com.au

Armidale:

■ Heinz Hauptli, 0417 446 542
heinz.hauptli@bigpond.com

Coonabarabran:

■ Herbert Würsch, (02) 6842 8278

Wagga Wagga:

■ Elisabeth Rorrison, (02) 6931 9090
jrer@ozemail.com.au

Cobar:

■ Werner Muehlethaler, (02) 6836 2091
werner.m@exemail.com.au

Bathurst:

■ Johann & Ruth Geissmann,
(02) 6337 4103
geissmann@bigpond.com

Orange:

■ Monika Rickli, 0419 435 917
monika.rickli@hotmail.com

Blue Mountains:

■ Elizabeth Bizzini, 0408 414 863
bizzini1@hotmail.com

North Coast:

■ Hans Schaffner
hschaffner@bigpond.com

QLD: Fraser Coast Swiss Group

Group organiser: Cecile Scherrer
cecile.sch70@gmail.com
0409 286 326 or 07 4194 01 05

Unfortunately, the Easter Bunny event had to be cancelled for COVID safety



NT: Swiss get-together in Alice Springs

On their way to Australia's Red Centre as part of a private trip, the Ambassadors of Switzerland in Australia Mr Pedro Zwahlen and Mrs Yasmine Chatila Zwahlen, took this unique opportunity to invite the Swiss Community in Alice Springs to a much appreciated reception on 30 April 2021.

The Ambassadors enjoyed listening to the impressive and sometimes adventurous biographies of the Swiss who have made Alice Springs their home.

reasons. Lucky, our monthly restaurant lunches on the 15th of each month in different locations of Hervey Bay are ongoing. We celebrated harmony day dressed up at the Neighbourhood Centre. Swiss National Day will be held at a private property.

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

We are back in rehearsals every 2nd Tuesday, and fine-tuning three new songs.

Our first performance since February 2020 will be at Buderim for Senior Citizen Day on 6 June. Then we look forward to an even bigger audience on Swiss National Day, 31 July.

We have one new person joining the choir. Pete is a talented Australian who has been working for several years in Switzerland. Nostalgia brought him to us which is to our advantage. Welcome to Pete Ryland as long as you're in Australia.

There is no prerequisite for reading music or choir experience. Your enthusiasm and friendship is most important to us. To join, contact Gabriel, yodel@swissclubqld.org.au or 0435 570 241.

SA: Swiss Club of South Australia

For the first time since COVID hit, we held our Fondue

Night here in Adelaide last weekend – a wonderful event with 120 people attending, in a dynamic and heart-warming ambiance at the Austrian Club.

Part of the event was welcoming our newest member, Zac Moody. Zac is turning 18 this year, and it was fit to celebrate this important event. We originally wanted to organise the Jungbürgerfeier, with the help of the Consulate General in Sydney, at the Pilatus offices at the airport, but unfortunately, the disappointing response rate meant that we had to cancel the event.

We hope to be able to hold the event next year – the idea is to celebrate the Young Swiss, introduce them to their rights and responsibilities, and offer them some Swiss gifts to mark the event.

Our Swiss Club is all about get-togethers among friends, among people from the same area of the world, who don't necessarily meet otherwise. It's all about togetherness – think about how we share a fondue with friends.



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We are a virtual, itinerant and vibrant Club, and our aim is very much to promote our traditional events – our next event will be the traditional first of August celebration, followed with a Wuerstli Broetle in October, and a visit from Samichlaus and Schmutzli in December.

We have our Swiss Radio program: tune in to 5EBI (103.1FM) on a Saturday, from 6pm to 7pm ACST (<http://5ebi.com.au/on-air-programs/1030/swiss>) for traditional Swiss music

And for further details of events, how to become a member (especially if you have just arrived in South Australia) or getting in touch with our business partners, head to our website www.swissclubsa.com.au or email us on info@swissclubsa.org.au

VIC: The Matterhorn Yodel Choir

It has been a fabulous start to the year. Small groups have meetings at the home of Chris our conductor, to re-energise both enthusiasm and voice boxes. Fortnightly full choir practice sessions have resumed and best of all we have several new active singers. Ages now range from under twenty to shall we say 80's. Interested in joining? Ring Chris Hostettler on 0428 427 434.

Our last Jassabend was a huge success with more than 40 people in attendance vying for top spot, or at least a prize of a delicious Zopf.

With all good intentions for a year of relative normality, we have begun planning our traditional Swiss Picnic celebrating Switzerland's birthday on 1st August. Anyone interested in having a stall or volunteering please contact our president Erwin Weinmann 0400 850 816.

Upcoming Events:

7/6: Jass Night – at the Horticultural Centre, 82 Jolimont Road, Forest Hill. Start 8pm. Bookings essential: call Sepp on 0425 791 036.

1/8: Swiss National Day – Annual Swiss Picnic at West Heidelberg.

CONGRATULATIONS: Happy birthday Marguerite!

Recently, Mrs Marguerite Demuth celebrated her 103rd birthday, which makes her officially the oldest registered Swiss person in Australia! Marguerite was born on 30 March, 1918 in St Imier. She came to Australia in 1956, the year of the Melbourne Olympic Games (she actually attended the opening ceremony!). Among the well-wishers was Hon. Consul Manuela Erb visiting her at the Warrantdyte Gardens Nursing Home. Warm birthday wishes from everyone!



VIC: Trachtengruppe Schwyzergruess A.S.C.C. Swiss Folk Dance Group Alpenrose

After the extended lockdown here in Victoria last year, the group has decided to take advantage of the easing of restrictions and bring a bit of cheer to our seniors in the community.

We are organising a Kaffeeklatsch – afternoon tea, coffee and cake – so that we can all get together.

We will of course adhere to the guidelines and restrictions that will be in place at the time because of COVID for the safety of the community.

Like in previous years, the Trachtengruppe will sponsor the afternoon tea. The Swiss Club of Victoria has kindly offered the use of the premises for the function. We are grateful for their ongoing support and hope you can join us there.

Make sure you book the date: **Sunday, 28 August, 2pm**
Bookings can be made with Marlies on 9503 9921 / 0423 765 986 or Sylvia 9531 6575 / 0409 968 624.

WA: Swiss Club of Western Australia

The Swiss Club of Western Australia continues Swiss traditions and celebrations throughout the year.

Please follow our Facebook Page 'Swiss Club of Western Australia' to keep up-to-date with all the events we have planned and subscribe to our Newsletter through our website www.swissclubwa.org

During these strange times with COVID 19, here in Western Australia we have been so lucky that we have still been able to offer events even though they might have been reduced in size. Thank-you to all that have been able to attend our club events, from the Fondue Nights, Samichlaus, Club Picnics, Swiss menu evenings at restaurants, our Swiss National Day celebrations at the club's property at Gidgegannup etc.

If you are not a member please look up our website and join through it. Every event we offer, there are discounts for our members and additionally you get to enjoy camping at the club's 30 acre property in Gidgegannup.

For instance, the children of members are getting a free bag at the Samichlaus/Père Noël, compared to the cost of \$15 per child if you are a non-member. At most events we offer a \$10 discount for members, so by paying your annual fee, you are benefiting greatly.

For further information please contact the president, Adrian Lehmann on president@swissclubwa.org



The Swiss Society of Victoria's purpose is to assist fellow Swiss in Victoria, old and young, who need financial or personal support. If you are experiencing difficulties, or you know a Swiss who does, please contact us.

We are here to help.

<https://swissocietyvic.org/>
Patrick Albert – M: 0449 999 645
E: admin@swissocietyvic.org

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EHL Campus (Singapore): Educating future hospitality leaders in Asia in the 21st century

The famed EHL (Ecole hôtelière de Lausanne) is the world's best university in hospitality education, according to QS rankings for three years in a row. EHL is now coming to Asia with the new EHL Campus (Singapore), delivering their internationally recognised Bachelor of Science in International Hospitality and professional short courses.

As Jenny Ang, Managing Director of EHL Campus (Singapore), says, Singapore is "a gateway to the rest of Asia". The thriving business hub is a unique melting pot of Asian culture, and boasts "some of the world's best restaurants, beautiful hotels and impeccable leaders within the industry".

The Bachelor of Science in International Hospitality offered at EHL Campus (Singapore) provides unique insights into the hospitality industry in Asia through local case studies embedded in the curriculum content, as well as local internship opportunities.

Working professionals can upgrade their skills with the professional short courses which include Luxury Brand Management, Designing Hotel & Restaurant Concepts, People Analytics and Hospitality Finance Leadership.

To find out more about EHL Campus (Singapore) and the available courses visit www.ehl.edu/en/campuses/campus-singapore

5 years University of Zurich (UZH) Alumni Sydney



In February 2016 was the Chapter's launch event at the residence of Consul General Ernst Steinmann, in the presence of the Swiss Ambassador Marcel Stutz. Despite the distance to the Alma Mater, the chapter has been honoured with distinguished guests from Switzerland over the years.

The start was made in May 2018 by the then rector of UZH, Prof. Michael Hengartner. Consul General

Bernadette Hunkeler Brown received him and numerous members of the UZH Alumni Chapter Sydney in her residence. In 2018 UZH Vice Rector Prof. Christian Schwarzenegger and Prof. Abraham Bernstein visited the chapter.

Even during the corona pandemic, the chapter does not stand still. Chapter Head Dr. Mario A. Bassi organised, among other things, an exciting online lecture on «IT Governance» and contact tracing in times of COVID-19 with UZH alumnus Raffaele Ciriello, lecturer at the University of Sydney.

As soon as possible, Bassi would like to hold meetings on site again. He hopes that the popular fondue event in the residence of the Consul General, which was planned for 2020 together with ETH alumni and HSG alumni, can be rescheduled this year. He would also like to use the recently announced strategic partnership between UZH and the University of Queensland to expand the alumni network beyond Sydney.

Contact: uzh.sydney@gmail.com



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New procedure for the submission of the AHV/AVS Life Certificate

From 1 May 2021 the AHV/Swiss Compensation Office in Geneva requires again the Life Certificate form to be officially confirmed by a local authority. In Australia: Hon. Consulates, Consulate General of Switzerland in Sydney, Embassy of Switzerland in Canberra, Centrelink, Notary Public or Justice of the Peace. In New Zealand: Consulate in Auckland, Embassy of Switzerland in Wellington, Notary Public or Justice of the Peace.

Should you have difficulties in visiting the local authorities due to any Coronavirus related issues, the AHV/Swiss Compensation Office is accepting the Life Certificate signed by the pensioner without any official stamp. In this case you are required to attach with the certificate a copy of your valid identity document (passport or Australian driver's license) as well as a witness statement. All documents can be emailed in PDF format to sedmaster@zas.admin.ch or sent by postal mail to:

Schweizerische Ausgleichskasse SAK
Avenue Edmond-Vaucher 18, Postfach 3100, 1211 Geneva 2

The witness statement can be worded as follows:

I,(full name of witness) confirm, that

Mr/Ms(full name of beneficiary) is alive.

Address of witness:

Date:

Signature of witness:

Should you need an extension because the deadline to submit the Life Certificate is about to expire, please inform the AHV/Swiss Compensation office immediately otherwise your pension is automatically stopped.

Any enquiries are to be sent to: sedmaster@zas.admin.ch. In urgent cases, you can reach the AHV per telephone on: +41 58 461 91 11.

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