



Canberra Swiss Club Inc.



Presidents of the Canberra Swiss Club

1968–1969 Margaret Bootes
1969–1972 Hans Ulmer
1972–1979 Ernst Carniello
1979–1981 Peter Würmli
1981–1983 Helene Salzmann
1983–1985 George Brunner
1985–1988 René Ederlé
1988–1989 Phillip Kern
1989–1995 Peter Zimmermann
1995–1996 Trish Savary
1996–2000 Antonio Zonta
2000–2004 Robbert Veenendaal
2004–2014 Heinz Büttikofer
2014–2017 Gaby Hasler

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Canberra Swiss Club Inc.
<http://www.swiss.org.au/home.php?ID=4>

50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION at the Yarralumla Woolshed



15 April 2017

Welcome
to all members and friends of the
Canberra Swiss Club
on the occasion of the
50th Anniversary Celebration

The Committee

Sponsors



The Club also gratefully acknowledges the support of the
Embassy of Switzerland, Canberra,
Consulate General of Switzerland, Sydney
Switzerland Tourism Sydney
ACT Government

Connections with old friends back home

While the Canberra Swiss Club is deeply rooted in Canberra, its wings spread all the way back to Switzerland. In general, people who become members tend to stay members for the long term. However, there is also a steady stream of people joining the club for a few years before they move on due to their work. They may be posted to the Embassy or have a fixed term at the ANU or other organisations and leave after the end of the term. But there are others who, for various reasons, decide to return to Switzerland. They usually leave with a certain amount of reluctance and nostalgia for Canberra and Australia. Once back home there is a sense of having left something behind and a desire to reconnect with people who are in the same situation.

For many years now people who have gone back to Switzerland have organised annual get-togethers to reconnect. They meet in Kandersteg, Davos and other places to refresh their memories of their time in Australia. It is not unusual that members from Australia who happen to spend a holiday in Switzerland join in such get-togethers with their old friends. The same happens in reverse. Former Swiss Club members visit their friends in Australia when they return for a holiday. So the bonds between Australia and Switzerland are being kept intact by past and present Club members residing here and there.



Get together in Kandersteg early 1970



Tony and Eva Capeder visiting Chris Marugg in Davos 2008

Swiss Radio Program

Canberra has long had its own Swiss radio program broadcast via the Canberra Community Radio **CMS FM91.1**. It is a non-profit organization and features a Swiss Radio program every Monday night from 6-8pm.

It is thanks to some enthusiastic individuals that the Swiss program exists. It was established in the 1970s and hosted by Ruth Ederle. Subsequently several others such as Marcel Judd, Gaby Hasler and Werner Albrecht and recently Mirjam Herzog have taken on the task. They present a lively program with interesting Swiss content including current affairs, comedy, interviews and Swiss variety music such as 'Musikszene Schweiz' and an English segment 'Swiss Mix'. Listeners are welcome to phone in on Monday nights between 6 - 8pm with comments or requests. Ph: 6287 4347 **Happy Listening!!**



From time to time the station opens its doors to the public. It is a great opportunity to meet the faces behind the voices, meet other listeners and have a tour of the studios. You can talk to the presenters, find out how a radio program is made, or ask questions and make suggestions. Visit the Canberra Multicultural Service (CMS) Community Radio web site at <http://www.cmsradio.org.au/>

Yarralumla Woolshed

This unique venue, chosen for our anniversary, was constructed in 1904. It was built during a prosperous period after several years of drought. During WW1 the Woolshed was used to store building materials for the construction of Canberra's public works. Later it was partitioned for sleeping areas for labourers on various building sites around the new city. In 1917 local farmers asked that the shed be used again for shearing. Several local families (Yarralumla Pty Ltd) leased it until shearing at that place ceased in November 1964. Since the 1970s the building has become an important social venue for the Canberra community, particularly for weddings, bush dances and folk music activities.



Anniversary Program



Daytime Program - for young and old between 12noon and 4pm

- 12 noon Lunch with delicious Swiss style sausages & bread (Wienerli, Emmentalerli), fruit platter, cake, soft drinks, coffee and tea and socialising with friends over a drink (BYO alcoholic drinks)
- 1-4pm Various activities for children and those young at heart. There will be a jumping castle and various games including an Easter egg hunt.
- 2-3pm Pony rides

Evening Program

- 5:00pm Pre-dinner drinks on the lawn
- 6:30pm **Dinner held inside our unique venue - the 'Yarralumla woolshed'**
Entertainment throughout the evening:
 - Screen show of past events & faces
 - 'Tell us where you come from'
 - Tombola tickets sold throughout the evening
 - Swiss music played strategically
- 8:00pm Official welcome by the President
- 8:15pm Crèmeschnitte-Chörli
- 8:30pm Folk dance group Alpenrose from Melbourne
- 9:00pm Cutting of the anniversary cake
- 9:15pm Sing along led by the Crèmeschnitte-Chörli
- 9:40pm Drawing of the tombola and the lucky door prizes
- 10:00pm More sing along and socialising
- 11:00pm Close



We suggest you dress warmly — "woolshed attire".

This is a private function and all members and guests must have a booking

Canberra Swiss Club – a brief history

In the early 1960s, several Swiss citizens who lived and worked in Canberra, met socially at regular gatherings. Playing the Swiss card game Jass and perhaps a little bit of home sickness, may have been the catalyst for these friendly gatherings. It was not until several years later, that the group decided to formalise these meetings. The first Constitution was developed by the founders on 20 February 1967 and adopted at the first Annual General Meeting on 2 November 1968. The Canberra Swiss Society was officially born. Two objectives (and there are others) are regularly practised and they are:

- To further and maintain a spirit of good fellowship among the Swiss and their descendants resident in the Australian Capital Territory and neighbouring districts of New South Wales
- To further understanding and friendship between Swiss and Australians.

As more Swiss arrived in Canberra over the years, either to settle or to work for a given time, membership increased to more than 120 families (in many cases both parents are Swiss) and a good number of single memberships. AGMs are held, committees are elected which are charged to organise functions throughout the year for all members. While the club has never had its own club house, this didn't hinder the pursuit of the objectives.

The Canberra Swiss club enjoys a friendly relationship with the Harmonie German Club and the Austrian Club, but also with other clubs where various functions are held. For larger events that need to be held indoors such as the Fondue, Canberra's community halls offer a great venue. But for smaller events such as the Jass competition, it is not uncommon for club members to offer their home. The Swiss Club has been spoilt by our founding members Tony and Lina Shlager, who over the years offered their farm 'Banjo' for many functions such as National Day celebrations including the bonfire, or the Wiesenfest. 'Banjo' for many has become a little place of Switzerland away from home.

Over the years other groups with special interests have formed such as the Jass group or the Crèmeschnitte-Chörli. Like-minded people meet to pursue common interests under the banner of the Canberra Swiss Club.

Not everyone goes to all functions, but at given times one can expect to meet each other again at Club events. While unsure what it is that makes people participate, perhaps it is simply a reflection of the maxim 'once a Swiss, always a Swiss'.

Crèmeschnitte-Chörli

The roots of the Canberra Swiss Choir go back to about 2002 when a few members decided to meet and practise the Swiss national anthem in preparation for the National Day. The meetings took place at Café d'lish when, after the rehearsal, Peter Zimmermann offered the group a large tray of Crèmeschnitte, hence the name. The choir was formalised a few years later when asked by the German and Austrian choirs to participate in an event called 'Dreiländereck'. It has kept rehearsing and performing ever since. The Choir consists of a lively group of people who sing for fun. They sing traditional songs in our national languages, performing regularly at Swiss Club functions, but also reaching out into the community and performing at nursing homes and at festive events. From time to time they perform at concerts with the German and Austrian choirs. Rehearsals are currently held twice a month, on the second Tuesday and the last Tuesday of every month from 6:00pm to 7:30pm at the Harmonie German Club Narrabundah. New singers are always welcome and auditions are not required. For further information see the Swiss Club website.

Past events

In addition to performances at many Swiss Club events, the choir also performed at:

- ✚ Lina's 90th birthday concert 2016. Isabella Plains retirement village 2016
- ✚ Burrangiri Aged Care Plus Respite Centre 2015
- ✚ Swiss Embassy National Day in 2012
- ✚ Kangara Waters nursing home Belconnen 2014
- ✚ Sängerefest Canberra 2014
- ✚ Jindalee nursing home Narrabundah
- ✚ Dreiländereck 2009



The Swiss Choir at the 'Dreiländereck' concert in 2009



Performance at Isabella Plains retirement village 2016

The Swiss Embassy

Article 3 of the constitution states: The Ambassador of Switzerland or the Charge d'Affaires in office in Canberra shall be invited to be the Patron of the Association.

The Canberra Swiss Club is privileged to have the Ambassador as patron of the Club and to have the Swiss Embassy in town. We enjoy a friendly relationship with the Ambassador and many of the staff. Functions are regularly attended by our Ambassadors who, from time to time, return invitations to the Swiss community. This relationship goes both ways as it is not uncommon for the Embassy to 'tap into' the Swiss community for business, professional or social advice.



President Cup, donated by the
Ambassador of Switzerland Mr de Grafenried
1968

Relationship with other Swiss Clubs in Australia

As communication and travel has become easier in recent years, contact with other Swiss Clubs in Melbourne and Sydney has been more regular. Members from the Sydney Yodellers or from Melbourne Clubs join some of the Canberra Swiss Club events and in reverse, people from Canberra travel to Sydney for the Harbour cruise.

With the internet pages of Swiss Clubs in Australia jointly hosted on 'Swiss.org', the information flow between Swiss Clubs is readily guaranteed. As a consequence a more regular interaction between clubs is expected in the future.



On the Sydney Harbour cruise...



...with the Sydney Yodellers 2016

Club activities and events held over the years



Photos of past events



Margaret (Gretel) Bootes
1st President



Capeders at Samichlaus 1969



Wiesenfest at Shlagers farm 1970



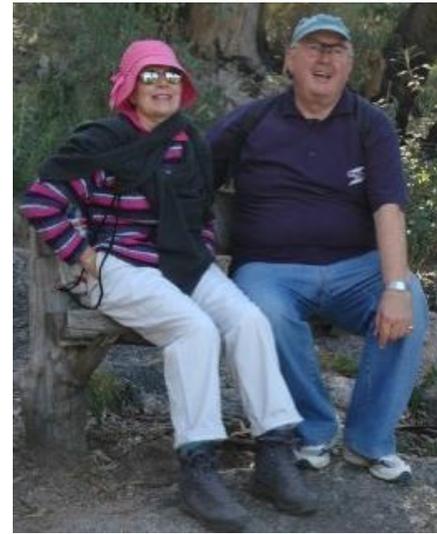
Samichlaus ca. 1985



Ladies football team 1975



Dinner dance at Lithuanian Club 1970



Ambassador Mühlethaler on a bushwalk 2008



Hans Brügger and Alois Lustenberger,
Swiss National Day 2011



Hans Brügger and Toni Büchi supervising the
young kitchen crew at the Fondue night 2014



Hanspeter Studer and others playing Jass at the
coast weekend 2014



Cooking classes 2013



Wood collection at Lustenberger's farm 2014



Cooking classes 2012



Fondue at the Embassy 1993



Lina and Tony Shlager at Jass tournament 1993



Swiss football team in Woden late 1970



Andreas Lutzi mountain sledding 1994



25 Years Swiss Club anniversary T-shirt 1992



Wiesenfest at Shlager's farm 1974



Neilsons at visit to Woodlawn mine mid 1980s



Ambassador Niederberger 1993



Mrs Niederberger



Packing up after wine bottling, Marcel Judd and Peter Zimmermann



Santa arriving by truck mid 1980s



Committee meeting ca 1985



The bonfire 1994



Bernadette Hunkeler (Embassy staff member early 1990s



Lino Rovere the 'BBQ Maestro'



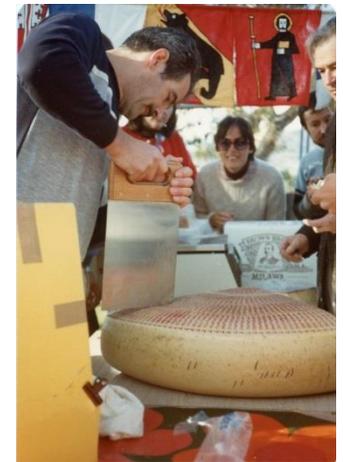
700 years Switzerland 1991



In the shed before the bonfire



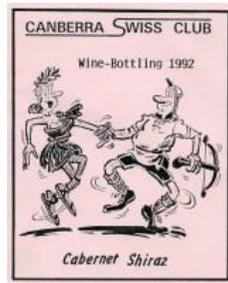
Ten pin bowling 1993, 'and the winner is...'



Robby and Helene Salzmänn



Doug Guppy at wine bottling 1992



Label 1992



'Grittibänze'



Shlagers and Dübliens



Cooking Fondue 1994



Lina Shlager and Heinz Büttikofer chatting after wood collection