

The Canberra Swiss Club Inc. Newsletter



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Upcoming Club Events

All events are subject to last minute changes/cancellations due to Covid

Date (2021)	Event	Date (2021)	Event
Fri 5 – Mon 8 Mar	Coast Long Weekend	Aug TBA	Eisstock Tournament
Fri 2 April	Easter Picnic at Kambah Adventure Park	Sun 19 Sept	Go Karting
Sun 9 May	Mother's Day Bush Walk	Sun 17 Oct	Canberra Jass Tournament
Fri 25 June	Fondue (cheese) Night	Fri 26 Nov	AGM
Sat 17 July	Star Gazing, Aboriginal View	Sun 5 Dec	Samiclaus Picnic
Sat 31 July	Swiss National Day Celebrations		

Your Swiss Club Committee

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Sad News
the tragic loss of Gaby Hoffmann

It is with a heavy heart that we wish to inform you that one of our longest serving members, Gaby Hoffmann was tragically passed away following a car accident late January.

As a Club we offer our sincere condolences to her family and friends during this difficult time. A reflection on Gaby's life is provided on pages 6 and 7

President's Message

Fellow Members,

It is a massive shock to us to hear about the passing of Gaby Hoffman. Gaby was an active member for a very long time in all kinds of roles for the club, from treasurer to membership secretary. Most Bushwalks and the yearly Jass tournament were organised by Gaby. In the last few years the Jass tournaments were held at her beautiful house in O'Connor. Our thoughts go out to Markus, Martina, Carole and the family. Gaby will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

It looks like we are slowly but surely getting back on track with our events for the club. We did take the first steps to get the fondue night and 1. August happening. But we never know what exactly will be the COVID rules at the time as they can change daily. Let's hope for the best!

The next upcoming event is the Canberra long weekend down the coast at North Durras. That is always a great weekend to take the kids down there for a swim and Raclette night. Dinner is always followed by very nice desserts, some wine and few songs.

I'm looking forward to meeting everyone down there, and hope the sun will be out too.

Thank you.

Christoph Heiniger

President Canberra Swiss Club.

Easter Picnic

When: Friday 2 April

Where: Kambah Adventure Park, Springbett St, Kambah

Time: 12 noon

Register interest with Heather by 26 March at secretary.canbswissclub@gmail.com, as numbers are needed to prepare games and lolly bags.



Coast Weekend

Join in for the annual Canberra Swiss Club Coast weekend. There's the Saturday night raclette feast (see picture), a fun family friendly cliff walk, swimming and all those other beach-related activities on offer or just hangout with old friends and make new ones! Don't forget to bring your raclette set if you have one, if not, don't worry there are always spare spots.



When: Anywhere between Friday 5 - Monday 8 March

Where: Durras Lake North

Bookings: Call Joalah Holiday Park on (02) 4478 6012 to reserve a cottage (at this stage they are all booked out, but you may be able to go on a wait list) or camping spot or Durras Lake North Camping Ground on (02) 4478 6072 to reserve a camping spot. The Holiday Park and camping ground are next to each other. The cottages will book out fast, so get in ASAP! Mention you are with the Canberra Swiss Club as they have some cabins all in a row near the water. The Holiday Park usually has a special “stay 4 pay for 3” nights, if you wanted to make a real holiday out of it!

Getting there: Take the Kings Highway toward the coast. At the big roundabout near Bateman's Bay, turn left onto the Princes Highway, heading north for 12.4km. Turn right at the North Durras Road and follow the sealed road down to the beach.



Samichlaus Picnic

At our picnic this year, fun was had by all despite Covid keeping Samichlaus and Schmuetzli away. Grittibanz and lolly bags bought joy to the families and it was a great chance to catch up.



The AGM

A lovely meal was had by all whom attended the AGM at Yowani Country Club, with a festive feel due to being back together despite COVID.

The Committee was re-elected - see page 2 of this newsletter for details. Although some situations arose after the meeting and the meal, your Club Committee will continue to do their best for you and your families going forward.

The lovely bell was presented by the choir – thank you very much.

We, your Committee greatly appreciate your continued membership and support of the Club during this ongoing difficult time. Due to the loss of Gaby, Sonja agreed to step in as Membership Secretary at the last meeting.

You are all welcome to attend committee meetings and take an active role in helping our Club. Feel free to run an activity or just come along to a meeting.



Gaby Hoffmann



Gaby Hoffmann was farewelled by her family and friends at a memorial service at Norwood Crematorium on Friday 12 February. It was a beautiful service with many insights to the life of a wonderful person who will be sadly missed. Our thoughts remain with her family during this difficult time and we feel privileged to have known her. On the next few pages are some words about her and photographs shared by members as well as the poem that was read at her funeral service.

It is with great sadness we inform you that Gaby Hoffmann has passed away on Sunday 31 January 2021. Gaby was on the way to her beloved coast when she suffered a car accident from which she did not recover. We are all shocked and saddened of the great loss of our dear friend and colleague. Our thoughts go out to Markus, Martina, Carole and the family.

Gaby has been a member of the Canberra Swiss Club for many years and has served on the committee in different roles. She served as Treasurer from 2005 to 2007. Then in 2008 she became Membership Secretary, a post she held until now. She was a respected member of the committee and carried out her duties diligently and with commitment. Gaby was always there to help when setting up for functions such as the Fondue Night, or the Swiss National Day. Gaby contributed to the Club in many ways. She was a passionate player of the Swiss card game Jass, and regularly participated in the fortnightly Wednesday Jass evenings and also in a smaller group at Schlager's farm on Sunday nights. She hosted the Canberra Swiss Club Jass Tournaments over the last few years. At times she even travelled across the country to participate in the Australia-wide Jass Tournaments. Gaby loved the outdoors and enjoyed bushwalking. The last several years, she organised the autumn bushwalks for the Club. Gaby also had other interests for example, she was a member of the Canberra Lapidary Club. She loved Gemstones and enjoyed going out bush fossicking. Or at the coast, she loved taking her canoe out on the water to do some fishing. Gaby was a great supporter of the Canberra Swiss Club and she made many friends over the years. She will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

Heinz Buettikofer

*Sad news indeed. Many will miss her. i
remember her from walks she led, and the
coast weekend. And also the very first Swiss
club event we went to, a national day bonfire.
We didn't know anyone and she chatted to
me for ages, when maybe she had others she
would have liked to catch up with. Cathy*

We are so sorry to hear these sad news.

Our feelings are with Gaby's family. Brigitte

A mother's garden

*My Mother kept a garden.
A garden of the heart:
She planted all the good things,
That gave my life it's start.

She turned me to the sunshine,
And encouraged me to dream:
Fostering and nurturing
The seeds of self-esteem.

And when the winds and rains came,
She protected me enough:*

*But not too much, she knew I'd need
To stand up strong and tough.*

*Her constant good example,
Always taught me right from wrong;
Markers for my pathway
To last my whole life long.*

*I am my Mother's garden,
I am her legacy.
And I hope today she feels the love,
Reflected back from me*



Condolences

We are deeply saddened by the news of the unexpected death of Mrs Gaby Hoffmann.

On behalf of the Embassy of Switzerland, we would like to express my recognition and sincere gratitude for the highly appreciated voluntary work, which Gaby Hoffmann has performed in favour of the Swiss community in Canberra and surrounding. Indeed, in various roles such as membership secretary and treasurer of the Canberra Swiss Club, her dedication to the Swiss compatriots in ACT will remain unforgettable.

Our sympathy and thoughts go out to Gaby's family and friends, we wish them solace and support in the wake of this tragic loss.

Pedro Zwahlen & Yasmine Chatila Zwahlen
Ambassadors
Embassy of Switzerland, Canberra



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Jass Tournament

Fun was had by all at Peter Zimmermann's place. A sincere thank you to Peter and Ellie for hosting such a wonderful afternoon. A total of 12 people (some of whom had never really jassed before) played and shared some laughs and food. Congratulations to the following - the winner was David Horsfall followed by A. Luzzi and third Peter Z. Julie S was awarded the wooden spoon (quite a useful prize really 😊).



Schlangenbrot Rezept

Fresh bread baked over the fire is always a hit with young and old and you will find many a Swiss family doing this during the glorious days of summer.

- 500g white or wholemeal flour
- 1.5 tsp salt
- 1 pkt dried yeast
- Approx 300 ml luke warm water

1. Add salt and flour to a bowl. Form a well and add the yeast and 200 ml water and mix to a thick dough with some of the flour.
2. Leave to rise for 15 min in a warm place
3. Add the rest of the water and knead the dough until it is stretchy. Then cover and leave in a warm place until it has doubled in size.
4. Divide into 10 portions, roll into snakes and wrap around a stick and cook over the glowing coals for about 20 mins turning regularly to stop it burning.



Mothers Day Bushwalk

Bushwalk: Nil Desperandum

Mothers Day: Sunday 9 May, 2021

12km return (4 hours, moderate). Walk through regenerating native forest, regularly enjoying fantastic views across the valley, to the Nil Desperandum Homestead.

Meet at 9am: Greens car park (near Nature Discovery Playground), Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve

What to bring: appropriate clothes and shoes/boots for bushwalking, hat, sunscreen, raincoat, water, snacks, picnic lunch. There are toilets and picnic tables at the Playground and at the homestead.

You will need a vehicle pass (day rate \$14) for the Reserve, which can be picked up at the Visitor Centre beforehand.

If you have any queries, contact Sonja Gasser, ph 0409 386 235, or check the Facebook site for any cancellations due to weather or COVID restrictions.

How well do you know Switzerland?

- 1 

This city is said to be oldest in Switzerland and was named *Curia Raetorum* by the Romans.

 - a Lucarno
 - b Chur
 - c Sion

- 2 

This city has an annual celebration known as *L'Escalade*, which marks a failed surprise attack by Catholic Savoy .

 - a Geneva
 - b Neuchatel
 - c Martigny

- 3 

This city is home to an abbey (with a stunning library) recognised as being of outstanding universal value by *Unesco*.

 - a St Gallen
 - b Zug
 - c Winterthur

- 4 

This city hosted the first-ever edition of the *Eurovision Song Contest*.

 - a Lugarno
 - b Lucerne
 - c Lausanne

- 5 

This city is the home of the *Zytglogge* clock tower and a huge yearly onion market.

 - a Bern
 - b Zurich
 - c Biel/Bienne

- 6 

This city is home to the hugely popular *Swiss Museum of Transport*.

 - a Thun
 - b Lucerne
 - c Thun

7



This city is the birthplace of tennis star Roger Federer.

- a Schaffhausen
- b Winterthur
- c Basel

8



This city is the fourth largest in Switzerland.

- a Lausanne
- b Winterthur
- c Locarno

9



This city was a centre of the Protestant Reformation in Europe under the reformer Huldrych Zwingli.

- a Schwyz
- b Biel/Bienne
- c Zurich

10



This city has failed in its bid to host the Winter Olympics on three separate occasions while voters refused to back a 2026 bid.

- a Sion
- b Brig
- c Fribourg

11



The buildings of this city are famous for their oriel windows and painted facades.

- a Schaffhausen
- b Yverdon les Bains
- c Appenzell

12



This popular tourist destination used to be known as Aarmühle.

- a Grindelwald
- b Interlaken
- c St Moritz

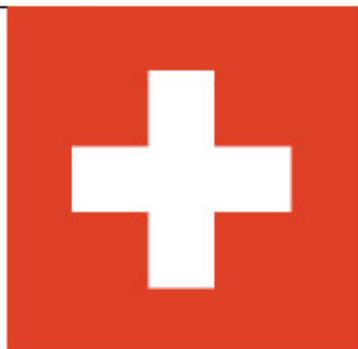
Source <https://www.thelocal.ch/20180921/quiz-how-well-do-you-know-your-swiss-cities-and-towns>

Something for the children



Overview:

Continent: _____
Population: _____
World rank (population): _____
Capital: _____
Largest City: _____



Geography:

What five countries does Switzerland border?

What mountain range covers 65% of Switzerland?

Describe Switzerland's climate:

**Label Switzerland on the map
(draw an arrow if necessary)**



History:

In what year did the cantons of Uri, Schwyz, and Unterwalden form a defensive alliance?

In the 1500s, what religion did some cantons adopt that led to religious wars?

Switzerland gained independence from the Holy Roman Empire in 1648 following what war?

In 1798 during the French Revolutionary Wars, France invaded Switzerland and established what republic?

In what year did the Congress of Vienna grant Switzerland independence?

Government:

Form of government: _____
Head of government and chief of state: _____
Switzerland is divided into how many cantons?

Economy:

Per capita GDP: _____
World rank (GDP): _____
Currency: _____

Culture:

Official languages: _____

Largest religion: _____



What 14,692 ft. (4,479 m) high mountain (pictured above) along the border of Switzerland and Italy is an icon of the Swiss Alps?

Describe one thing about Switzerland you found interesting:

Where would we be without Velcro®?



The Swiss are known for their tenacity and deep friendships, and like to make things stick so to speak. But did you know that Velcro® is a Swiss invention that was marketed in the 1950s as the zipperless zipper.

The good old burrs or sticky willies that love to stick to you when walking through the bush were the seed for this invention. Georges de Mestral was walking with his dog in the Jura mountains and noticed that these burrs stuck to him and his dog and were not easy to remove. On closer inspection he realised that they had tiny hooks and he set to work with friends from the weaving industry to replicate these burrs by developing the hook and loop system that we all know as velcro® today. The word itself is a combination of the French for velvet and hook – velour and crochet. Alas it was not until 1969 when the idea really took off with NASA who used it in space.

The good old burrs or sticky willies that love to stick to you when walking through

