

# The Canberra Swiss Club Inc. Newsletter



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**PO Box 3211  
Manuka ACT 2603**

Phone: 0409 907 196 (President)

email: [canberraswissclub@gmail.com](mailto:canberraswissclub@gmail.com)

web: <http://swissclubact.com/>

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## Upcoming Club Events

*All events are subject to last minute changes/cancellations*

Date (2022)	Event	Date (2022)	Event
Fri 25 Feb	Online Kahoot Tournament	Sat 30 July	Swiss National Day
Fri 11 – Mon 14 Mar	Coast Long Weekend	Aug TBA	Eisstock Tournament
Fri 27 Mar	Picnic, Canberra Lake	Sun 18 Sept	Go Karting
Sun 15 May	Bush Walk, Mulligan's Flat	Sun 9 Oct	Canberra Jass Tournament
Thurs 24 Jun	Fondue (cheese) Night	Fri 25 Nov	AGM
Sun 12 Jun	Australian Jass Tournament	Sun 4 Dec	Samiclaus Picnic

## Your Swiss Club Committee

Position	Name	Phone	Email
President	Chris Heiniger	0409 907 196	<a href="mailto:president.canbswissclub@gmail.com">president.canbswissclub@gmail.com</a>
Vice President	Werner Albrecht	6291 4160	<a href="mailto:werner_cms@hotmail.com">werner_cms@hotmail.com</a>
Secretary	Cathy Schmidli	0402 584 194	<a href="mailto:secretary.canbswissclub@gmail.com">secretary.canbswissclub@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Sam Sainsbury-Käser	0416 052 797	<a href="mailto:treasurer.canbswissclub@gmail.com">treasurer.canbswissclub@gmail.com</a>
Public Officer	Sonja Gasser	0409 386 235	<a href="mailto:publicofficercanberraswissclub@gmail.com">publicofficercanberraswissclub@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:canberraswissclub@gmail.com">canberraswissclub@gmail.com</a>
Property Officer	Matthias Käser	0405 453 155	<a href="mailto:heavenlykandw@hotmail.com">heavenlykandw@hotmail.com</a>
Committee Member	Dave Hall	0411 284 201	<a href="mailto:Triumphtiger46@gmail.com">Triumphtiger46@gmail.com</a>
Newsletter Editor	Julie Slater		<a href="mailto:julie_slater@outlook.com">julie_slater@outlook.com</a>

### Kahoot Quiz



**When** Friday 25 February 2021

**Where** Online via Cisco Webex – click on this [link](#) or the QR code



**Time** 6.45 for 7:00PM

**Details** 4 Rounds of 15 questions on Switzerland, ACT, plus two other topics. Small prize for each round and one for the best overall. It is recommended to use your laptop/computer to login to Webex and play the Kahoot using your smart phone.

## President's Message

Happy New Year.

I hope everyone had a great Christmas, new year and a fantastic holiday with friends and family.

Let's see what 2022 has to offer. Hopefully we are slowly exiting out of the whole Covid situation. It looks like we should be fine to bring back some great events this year. The committee recently met to plan the main events for the year. We will have some new events and also the traditional ones.

There is an online Kahoot Quiz with four rounds on different topics at the end of February. Then the first big event is coming up in March with the Canberra long weekend Coasting at Durras North.

If you haven't booked a cabin yet, you need to hurry up as they book out fast. I'm looking forward to meeting everyone again and having a Raclette night with a few tasty refreshments.

I had the pleasure to meet with Fabian Grass (Deputy Head of Mission) at the Swiss Embassy and we talked about the connection with the Swiss club and the Embassy. It was a very successful meeting and Fabian is very positive to work together with us. At the end of the meeting the outgoing Ambassador Pedro Zwahlen walked into the meeting. He had just returned from his last meeting with the Prime Minister before packing up to return to Switzerland. He wished us the best of luck and told us to keep going the way we are.

Hopefully by the end of February, early March, I will try to organise a meeting with the new Ambassador to introduce myself and the Canberra Swiss Club.

This year we are hosting the National Jass Tournament here in Canberra on the June long weekend. Sonja is working very hard to organise the event and make it a huge success. Any help from volunteers is much appreciated.

I'm looking forward to meeting everyone in person again at the next events.

Thank you.

Christoph Heiniger

President

Canberra Swiss Club.

## Coast Weekend

Join in for the annual Canberra Swiss Club Coast weekend. Arrive on Friday night. There's the Saturday night raclette feast (see picture), a fun family friendly cliff walk or golf on Sunday and a BBQ for dinner, as well as 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 and cheese 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

**Need more info:** Contact Chris Heiniger on 0409 907 196

**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. 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.



## The AGM

It was a different kind of AGM in 2021 due to Covid, it was held online. There were some robust discussions and input regard the constitution update, particularly with respect the Patron of the Club. It was determined that the Club should keep the Swiss Ambassador to Australia as Patron. Thank you to everyone who took their time to provide the input and also to Sonja Gasser for rewriting the constitution which now conforms with current legislation. The new constitution is available on our website.

Heather Bundy decided to take a step back from the Committee and we on behalf of the members would like to thank her greatly for her contributions. Welcome to David Hall who joined the committee and thank you to all the other members who have agreed to continue.

The online meeting was rounded off with a Kahoot quiz on Switzerland which was won narrowly by Peter Zimmermann.



### Pre Easter Picnic

When: Sunday 27 March

Where: Black Mountain Peninsula Playground/BBQ area

Time: 12 noon

Register interest with Werner by 20 March on 6291 4160, as numbers are needed to prepare games and lolly bags.



## Mulligans Flat Bird Walk



An enjoyable walk through box-gum grassy woodland with patches of forest. Many birds (over 150 varieties are present) can be observed at the dams and throughout the reserve. You will likely see wallabies, kangaroos, and maybe if you're lucky an echidna or shingleback lizard. The reserve is also home to some reintroduced species (including curlews, bettongs, quolls) but most of these are nocturnal: there are regular ranger guided after dark tours to see these.

Mulligans Flat Nature Reserve restores the rich variety and abundance of woodland habitats and native wildlife that were present before European settlement. A very significant feature of the sanctuary is the absence of feral predators and herbivores due to the introduction of the predator proof fence surrounding this special place within the Canberran landscape.

**When:** Sunday 15 May 2022 (walk starts at 9:15)

**Time:** 9am at Mulligans Flat Carpark (Amy Ackman St, Forde), or 9:30am at the Woolshed inside the reserve.

**Walk length:** 6km return, 2 hours easy (there are a couple of shortcuts if you don't want to do the whole walk).

**Bring:** appropriate clothes and shoes/boots for bushwalking, hat, sunscreen, raincoat, water, snacks, picnic lunch.

**Queries:** 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.

**Map:** Click on this [link](#) or the QR code for details.





## Canberra Swiss Choir



Do you sing in the shower?? 😊

If so, you should consider joining the Canberra Swiss Club's Cremeschnitte-Choerli. We will make you feel very welcome and promise you will have fun!

The choir mostly sings Swiss songs in our national languages and currently has between 15 and 20 active singers who are guided by our excellent and committed musical director, Geoff Roberts. We are accompanied on piano by the talented Linus Lee and, whenever circumstances permit, by guitarist Dave Hall.

Choir rehearsals are relaxed and enjoyable. There are no auditions and singers don't need to be able to read music. We are a mixed choir and encourage men and women to come along; more male voices would be most welcome. After the rehearsal we often sit together for a drink or a bite to eat.

Prior to Covid, we performed several times a year, for example in November 2019 we gave a much appreciated Weihnachtskonzert at Goodwin House in Ainslie and we look forward to planning some future events.

Why don't you come to a rehearsal and see for yourself what a great group this is.

Details once Covid Restrictions allow us to meet again.

**When:** SECOND and FOURTH Tuesday of every month, 6pm-7.30pm

**Where:** Boardroom of the HARMONIE GERMAN CLUB,  
Jerrabomberra Avenue, Narrabundah

**Cost:** \$5 per rehearsal

**Info:** <http://swissclubact.com/choir>  
<http://swissclubact.com/choir-news>

**Contact:** Regula Neilson on 0409 399 633, click on this [link](#) or scan the QR code to fill in your details so a choir member can contact you.



## In Memory of René Pierre Ederle (1933 – 2021)



*René Ederle in Richmond, Tasmania 26 Feb. 2010*

René Ederle was born in 1933 in Sierentz France, a small village not far from the Swiss border in the region of Alsace. His father Aldo Ederle, worked as a civil engineer for the construction company Citra. Aldo and his wife Maria had two boys, Jean and René. The family would move wherever Aldo was posted. They had lived all over France, Ireland and ultimately in Australia.

In 1939 when WW2 broke out, René's father was on assignment in North Africa. The family was separated because of the war, and they received no word or letter from Aldo for 6 years. They did not know whether he was dead or alive.

After the war René completed his high school studies and ultimately became an accountant. He also did further studies in civil engineering. He

took a job with Citra, the same company his father worked for.

In the early 1950's the entire Ederle family immigrated to Tasmania as Citra had secured an important contract with the Hydro to construct the Trevallyn Dam. René really enjoyed being in Tasmania at that time. Tassie was unspoilt, wild, and full of possibilities for him. It was during this period he developed his real love of the outdoors. He regularly did trips to the Freycinet Peninsula to go fishing and lobstering with his brother and other friends.

In 1953 René met Louise, a beautiful young girl from Lithuania, whose family had fled from the Russian occupying forces and also immigrated to Tasmania. René and Louise were married in 1955. Both were strong and determined people. They were married for 15 years and like any marriage there were ups and downs. They had two handsome, talented, and clever boys, Pierre born in 1956 and Francois in 1963. René loved his family and would do anything for them. He was always ready with advice, support, money or a glass of something nice.

René's family moved back to France in the late 1950's however, as Citra has secured further contracts in the NSW and Canberra areas, René decided to stay in Australia and remained here ever since.

René loved the outdoors. He indulged his passion for trout fishing, game fishing, travelling in the outback and abroad at every opportunity which presented itself. Either alone or with friends, he was always ready to pack up and head out for adventure.

René remarried in the mid 1970's to Ruth, a lovely lady from Switzerland. They enjoyed over 25 years of marriage together. Both were active members of the Canberra Swiss Club for many years, were widely known in the community and made many long-term acquaintances and friends. René held the office of President of the Canberra Swiss Club

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from 1985 to 1988. Ruth was also serving on the committee and ran the Swiss program of the Canberra Community Radio.

René was an accomplished golfer. He took up golf quite late when he was in his 40's. He threw himself into the sport and really was very good at it, playing off single figures for many years. A real highlight in his golfing career was when he became Captain of the Royal Canberra Golf Club, a position he held for around 6 years. He was very proud of that, as he ought to be.

Sadly, Ruth passed away in 2002 from breast cancer. Sometime after that, René moved back to Tasmania to live permanently. Although René never remarried, that is not of course to say he didn't have some loving and lasting relationships over time. He was, after all, a charming Frenchman (or rather an Australian with a French heritage as he preferred to be referred to in his later years) and it is fair to say he was able to endear himself with women generally.

His son recounts: "I often noticed that his French accent became decidedly thicker and more pronounced when in the company of a beautiful woman! But he was always correct, generous with his compliments, and entirely engaged with others. I recall on the eve of his eightieth birthday he announced that he had decided to stop seeing the particular lady with whom he had been spending a significant amount of time, as they had 'grown apart'. He leaned over to me and said, you see Francois, even at 80, I am still capable of having women problems."

René loved food, good food, particularly French food, a dozen freshly shucked oysters, an oven roasted quail served with wild rosemary and a salade-verte from his garden, was one of his favourite meals. Not forgetting the cheese. For René, a day without good French cheese was inconceivable, and to be avoided at all costs. Yes, cheese was very important in the household. Cheese was taken very seriously.

His son recounts: "Growing up with Dad, there was, as with most things in our family, an etiquette that had to be respectfully adhered to. This was particularly applicable to the cutting, the serving and importantly, the eating of cheese. For example, a robust Roquefort cheese, according to Dad, ought never be eaten with the diminutive and tasteless cheese cracker, 'ah non! ...this was unacceptable, nothing short of an affront to the entire French people' he would say. White crusty bread was the order of the day, preferably torn in hunks directly from the baguette. 'This was how one consumed a Roquefort', said Dad, and served of course with a generous glass of red wine, preferably a good shiraz from the Barossa.

There is no question that Dad enjoyed his wine, but also single malt whiskey, he would often confirm to me, in hushed and seemingly medicinal tones, that 'a petit-tumbler of whiskey before the evening meal was most necessary in order to prepare the stomach for what is to come next'."

René was a true gentleman! He will always be fondly remembered by all who knew him.  
The Canberra Swiss Community

*(Composed with excerpts from the eulogy and memories of Canberra friends. HB)*

## Raclette Pizza

*DIY pizzas on the raclette grill are a wonderful way for your family to share a slow meal together and allow plenty of time for socializing.*

### Pizza Dough Recipe

- 500g white or wholemeal flour
- 2 tbsp sugar
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 pkt dried yeast
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- Approx 330 ml luke warm water (more if using wholemeal flour)

1. Add salt and flour to a bowl. Form a well and add the yeast and 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 small balls of about 40-50g in size.

Prepare the toppings to share – use your imagination. I personally like tomato paste mixed with herbs and garlic, prosciutto, mushrooms, capsicum, spinach, mozzarella, sun dried tomatoes, corn (not all on the same pizza).

### To make the pizzas

1. Form the dough using hands to fit the raclette pan.
2. Place the dish on the top grill plate, so that the dough will cook from underneath. The time this takes will depend on the dough size and your raclette grill.
3. Add tomato paste and then the toppings. Do not place them too high otherwise they will stick to the heating element.
4. Place the raclette pan underneath the heating element just like you would do with raclette cheese.
5. When it is cooked, I recommend that you do not use your fingers to eat it but rather a knife and fork as the top of the pizza gets very hot and you run the risk of burning your mouth.



## How well do you know Switzerland?

1



How many lakes are there in Switzerland.

- a 4500
- b 3500
- c 1500

2



Which is the largest glacier in Switzerland

- a Aletsch glacier
- b Rhone glacier
- c Gorner glacier

3



Which town got the nickname of Swiss Siberia for a temperature of  $-41.8\text{ C}$  recorded in 1987

- a Chur, Graubünden
- b Vallée de la Brévine, Jura
- c Zermatt, Wallis

4



In which canton are three languages spoken.

- a Graubünden
- b Tessin
- c Wallis

5



Which is the highest building in Switzerland

- a Roche Tower in Basel
- b Exhibition Tower in Basel
- c Prime Tower Zürich

6



Which product does Switzerland export the most

- a Coffee
- b Cheese
- c Chocolate

7



Which of these products was not invented in Switzerland?

- a LSD
- b Zipper
- c Sledge

8



Who or what is pictured on the current 5 franc coin?

- a William Tell
- b Helvetia
- c An unknown Alpine Herdman

9



Which share costs more as 50 000 Francs on the Swiss Stock Exchange.

- a Lindt & Sprüngli AG
- b Nestlé
- c Toblerone

10



Anna Göldi was one of the last women to be tried and executed for witchcraft. In which year did this occur?

- a 1782
- b 1604
- c 1884

11



In which year was the first female parliamentarian voted in?

- a 1972
- b 1984
- c 1993

12

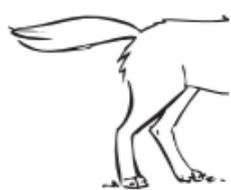


What happens if you do not vote in Canton Schaffhausen\_

- a You can not vote in the next election
- b You receive a warning letter from the officials
- c You have to pay a fine.

## Something for the children

Wolves, like every other animal have their own way of communicating, including facial expressions. Look at the pictures below and connect the words to the right drawing. Using Leo.org to help you translate the words if you do not understand them.

	<b>Unterwürfig</b>	
	<b>Normal</b>	
	<b>Aggressiv</b>	
	<b>Ängstlich</b>	

When you are finished, draw a picture of your own facial expression to show how you are feeling today and see if you can find some German or French or Italian words to describe those feelings



## Naturally dyed eggs for Easter

*The lead up to Easter is an amazing time for children in Switzerland as the handmade decorations and cooking that goes at home to celebrate. From bread that includes a whole egg, to make pictures to hang on windows and decorations to hang outside on the trees, colouring eggs with onion skins remains a big favourite.*



*Start collecting the onion skins now (or raid them from the local supermarket – it is always fun to see the looks on people’s faces in Australia when you do this.*

### What you need

- Vinegar
- Fine stockings cut into 10 cm pieces
- Fine elastic thread
- String
- A big pot
- Eggs of course
- Plenty of onion skins
- Cooking oil
- Assorted leaves to place on the eggs.  
Clover works nicely

### What you need to do

1. Soak the eggs in a bowl with some vinegar and water for 10 minutes.
2. Take a couple of leaves and place them on the egg and wrap some fine elastic around to hold them in place. It is important that the leaves are tight up against the egg.
3. Put the egg inside the cut piece of stocking and use string to secure tightly at each end.
4. Add the onion skins to a big pot with the eggs and add 2 tbsp vinegar and cover with hot water. Allow to simmer on the stove for approx. 20 minutes.
5. Remove the eggs and allow to cool.
6. Remove the stocking and leaves and dry with a paper towel.
7. Then rub with a drop of cooking oil.



Scan this QR code or click on this [link](#) to watch a video on how to colour the eggs Please note that the instructions above may differ slightly.



## Fastnacht

February and March are the time of “Fasnacht” in Switzerland. A mix of carnival, ceremony and partying that were originally a mix of Christian ritual, olden day rituals and pagan celebrations. Traditionally hideous masks and dress were worn, loud cowbells and drums were banged to say goodbye to the winter spirits and welcome the world of spring. The word Fast has its roots in the Christian fasting that occurred on the six days of fasting prior to Ash Wednesday. Different regions in Switzerland celebrate Fastnacht on different dates and there are regional variations in the costumes and associated music. Last year many festivals were cancelled due to Covid but it looks like a number will go ahead this year, but most probably with some form of restrictions. It is a highlight for many families, particularly the ones that have had the tradition handed down of making costumes and preparing.



Scan the QR code or click on this [link](#) to watch a video about the famous Basler Fastnacht.



## Swiss Hydropower

At the beginning of the 1970s, approximately 90% of power in Switzerland was supplied by hydropower, but this dropped with the commission of nuclear power stations to a bit under 60%



today. There are nearly 680 hydro power plants in Switzerland that produce more than 300 kilowatts. There are only a handful of countries in Europe that can boast more. Nearly 50% is produced through river flow, and 47% using dam storage. As there is so much water in Switzerland through snow and glaciers, there has been little need to focus on pump storage plants which involves pumping the “used” water back up to the high dam at night when less electricity is needed. Currently only about 4% of hydro electricity is produced this way. There are 220 large dams that the federal government is responsible for and over 1000 smaller dams that the cantons need to manage. It is hard to find a river in Switzerland that does not have a dam on it, which has some ecological consequences. Fish ladders

have been specially designed to ensure that fish can travel up and down the river system and regular monitoring is carried out. Nonetheless, natural disasters still occur. In 2013 monitoring showed that the flows of the Spoel river in Graubunden were too low for the fish. A technical error meant that a large amount of water was released via the spillway to correct this, with fatal consequences due to significant amounts of sediment being released. Unfortunately, the fish were no longer able to breath and thousands of trout died as a result.

Human lives have also been lost due to dams. In 1965 there was a terribly tragedy when parts of the Allalin glacier in Valais broke away whilst construction of the Mattmark dam was taking place and caused an ice avalanche. Alas the construction workers housing was below the dam site. Close to ninety construction workers lost their lives. Many lessons have been learnt from this disaster which will hopefully avert any future disasters.



The largest Dam in Switzerland is currently the Grande Dixence Dam on the Dixence River, completed in 1961. It is 285 metres high and 695 wide at the crest and holds back some 6 000 000 cubic metres of water. As global warming continues, some interesting challenges are in store for dam engineers as water levels are likely to rise due to increased glacier and snow melt which means that the dam



wall heights may no longer be sufficient. Also debris can damage the walls. The regular checking of dams is some of the most stringent in the world in Switzerland and Swiss dam engineering knowhow is just one of a long list of expertise that is exported by Switzerland.

Scan the QR code or click on this [link](#) to watch a video for some further information.

