

# The Canberra Swiss Club Inc. Newsletter



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**March 2024**

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**ANNUAL**



**DUES**

## Membership Renewal

It is time to renew your membership for 2024

- \$30 per person
- \$40 per couple
- \$50 per family.

*New members will incur an extra one off \$5 admin fee.*

Click on this [link](#): or scan the QR Code to renew.



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## Your Swiss Club Committee

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### Suggestions



Committee members are happy to hear from members about suggestions for events, or for any members who may need help or who are ill, so we can send a card or offer any help we can. And of course, if you have any news to share, we would love to put it in our newsletter and/or Facebook.



Also please join our Facebook page using this [link](#) or the QR code.

## 2024 Events

***Put these dates in your calendars!***

**24 March – Autumn Picnic**

**6 April** (13 April – back up day) – **Bushwalk** – Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve – meet at entrance to Koala Path at 9:30am. Easy stroll around the Koala Path and Peppermint trail – look out for koalas and other furry wildlife. Depending on the interest of participants, we have several options after that for more walks or activities. Bring a picnic lunch (the Visitors' Centre is closed), water, sunscreen, enclosed shoes and appropriate clothing for the weather. Cathy Schmidli is organising, so let her know if you're coming.



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**4 May – Bee talk** – one of our members, Martina Hoffmann, a keen amateur Apiarist has offered to give a presentation, followed by tea/coffee, honey tastings and leckerli. We will also be allowed to visit bee hives 300m away. 10:30am at The Link – Ginninderry Community & Information Centre, Strathnairn.

**6-11 May – German Film Festival** – note this is not a club event – it is here for your information.

**18 May** – ANU Film Group in partnership with the Embassy of Switzerland in celebration of World Bee day present Honeyland (Medena zemja) – further details click on the [link](#) to the ANU Film Group website.

**28 June – Fondue night** – [link](#) for booking.



**3 August – National Day Celebrations**

**14 September** – ACT Swiss Club Jass tournament

**20 October** – Spring Picnic

**2 November** – proposed special event - watch this space for details.

**29 November – AGM** – Ainslie Football Club - [link](#) for booking.



**6 December** – Samichlaus Tag

*With all events, please check our socials for last minute changes, usually caused by inclement weather or call the coordinator. If you are not on our socials, please advise a committee member in advance you are attending and we will call you if the event is cancelled.*

## President's Message

Dear members and friends of the Swiss Club

Another year, another adventure! I hope all of you arrived on the other side of the year 2023.

What the new year brings us, we don't know, but we humans can steer it, if we want. Our very dedicated committee are keen to offer you an exciting new club program, but we rely on you, all the members to participate and communicate with the committee members to fulfill all your wishes for 2024.

We are looking forward to seeing you all very soon and many more members (invite your friends to our club activities). I wish to thank all volunteers and the Swiss embassy for their past and future assistance.

With best wishes

*Werner Albrecht*

## Members' News

**Welcome:** Giuseppina Luzzi-Neumann, Tristan & Raphael Neumann; Richard Walchli, Olivia Rodriguez & Richelle Walchi; Anja, Elanor & Lawson Pluschke; Sina Pluschke, James, Christopher & Audrey Blaney; Arvid, Maja, Lena & Walter Pluschke & Stacey Griffiths; Amanda Dolle & Brian Achanfuo-Yeboah; Ben, Kelly & Hudson Munstermann; Martina Hoffmann & Tim Heaney; Michael Tabisz, Cristy England, Zoe & Ellie Tabisz; Liliane & Max Schweizer; Nadia, Alban, Rowan, & Audrey Burkolter

**Condolences:** Stephanie Jud-Brettingham, born 28.4.1949, passed away 7.12.2023.

Our sincere condolences go to her family, including husband of 52 years Marcel Jud.

*If you would like to add any other news in this section, please contact our wonderful secretary Cathy Schmidli.*

## Banking for Swiss Abroad & AHV

Since 2008, it has become increasingly difficult for Swiss Abroad to gain access to Swiss banking services and to maintain these banking relationships on terms comparable to those offered to Swiss residents. Furthermore, banks often terminate client relationships at short notice.

The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) among other organisations fought persistently to change the situation. It is now possible for Swiss nationals to have or open a bank account at reasonable costs.

On 13 December 2023, the Consular Directorate of the FDFA, the OSA and the Soliswiss Cooperative held a webinar on banking issues for Swiss nationals living abroad.

The OSA, Swiss Community, holds and participates in webinars on various topics together with its partners and other specialists.

There were already other webinars on several topics on “Ageing Abroad” such as

- Health insurance for Swiss Abroad (17 October 2023)
- Military Service for Swiss Abroad (20/21 September 2023)
- Estate Planning (13 June 2023)
- Ageing Abroad and OASI (old-age and survivors’ insurance AHV, 9 February 2023).

All video recordings of the webinars are available for free in German or French at:

<https://www.swisscommunity.org/en/offers-events/webinars>



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## Lake Burley Griffin Cruise

A highlight of 2023 was the boat cruise on Lake Burley Griffin on 6 October. 45 club members boarded the MV Southern Cross for an afternoon cruise and meal. The weather was perfect, there were great views across the lake including seeing the 'Open Day' at the Governor-General's residence, and the 2-course meal was tasty along with a well-used bar tab, and a hearty sing-along led by our own Cremeschnitte Chorli.



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## Samichlaus Tag

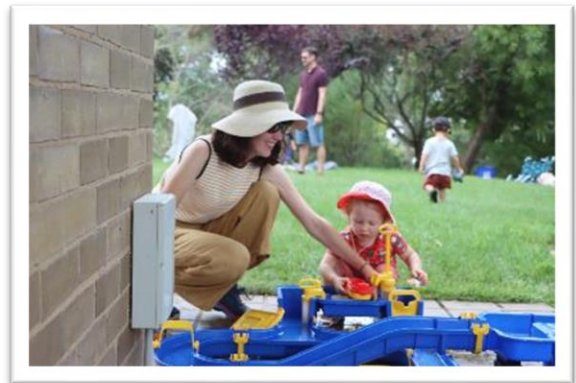
For the second year running the Swiss embassy hosted the club to celebrate St Nikolas day, held on 3 December 2023. A great venue as it caters for us in all-weather events. This year we had 35 adults, and 15 children attend.

The weather was perfect and all who attended enjoyed the day. Samichlaus and Schmützli made a visit to the delight of some and the terror for others – need to be good kids, Schmützli is watching! 😊

Hope to see you all next year, venue to be confirmed!







## Spring Picnic



It was a fresh morning on 5 November, and the clouds did not reveal if it would become a wet one too. Luckily the weather god was on our side and the sun came out. Despite the still fresh temperature, a group of people from the age of 3 months to retirees came together. A family with two young children and two new members joined for the first time. A great opportunity to meet

other members and to get to know each other. There was a lot to talk about this while sharing the picnic. There are no obligations, everyone can come and go as suits them best. For example, the family left after lunch so the children could have their nap. The others stayed on discussing / chatting 'till mid-afternoon. All felt that it was a most enjoyable, interesting, and happy gathering.



We look forward to the autumn picnic which will be in March 2024.

## Join the Swiss Club 'Cremeschnitte' Choir

Our club choir is a small band of people of variable singing abilities who meet once a month (February to November) to socialise by singing and dinner if you are so inclined at the German Harmonie club in Narrabundah. Sessions are at 6pm with accompaniment by an excellent pianist and sometimes a guitarist. We would love a few more to join us for the formal choir or for the **new informal singalongs**. No auditions, no music expertise needed. We are not a performing choir, other than singing in retirement homes about twice a year and at Swiss Club events. Emphasis is on Swiss songs in any of the four national languages. Enquiries to Markus Hegland or Cathy Schmidli.



## AGM



Once again, we returned to Ainslie Football club for the Annual General Meeting on 17 November 2023. Twenty-three members attended the two-course dinner and catch up with friends. The president gave an outline to the events the club had organised, and the election was held. All current serving members of the committee stayed on for another year. Please note we are still in need of a membership secretary! The committee would like to thank Julie Slater and Dave Hall for their ongoing work on the newsletters.



## Almond Croissants

*Often enjoyed with a good coffee. The other alternative is a walnut croissant.*

### Ingredients

- 5 tbsp apple juice
- 2 sheets of puff pastry  
(Swiss size 42x26cm) – adjust number for Australia (4?)
- 250 g ground almonds
- 2 tbsp milk
- 2 tbsp lemon juice
- 100g icing sugar



This photo by Kochtopf is licensed under [CC BY-NC](#)

### Method

1. Heat the oven to 225° C.
2. Mix the ground almonds with the apple juice in a bowl.
3. Cut 16 even triangles from the puff pastry and add a teaspoon of the almond mixture in the middle of each triangle.
4. Brush the edges of the triangles with lemon juice and roll the triangle towards the point. Curve the ends and press each end.
5. Place the croissants on baking paper on a baking tray and brush with milk.
6. Bake in the preheated oven for 25 minutes.
7. Mix the icing sugar with some lemon juice and glaze the croissants with the mixture as they come out of the oven.
8. Leave to cool on a wire rack.

Source <https://www.gutekueche.ch/mandelgipfel-rezept-5640>

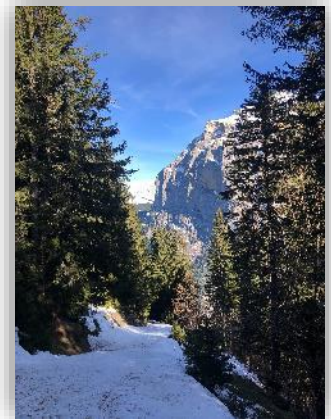
## Snowshoe walking



One of the fabulous things about living in Switzerland is the outdoor life and it is one of the reasons I love living here. Although I must say, I do miss the Australian Wildlife. A new addition to my outdoor kit this year was a pair of snowshoes. Just like the wonderful walking trails that are marked everywhere in Switzerland with the yellow signs, there are many good snow shoe trails marked for those

people who do not have the experience, correct snowshoes or confidence to walk off trail. There is nothing like walking in fresh snow.

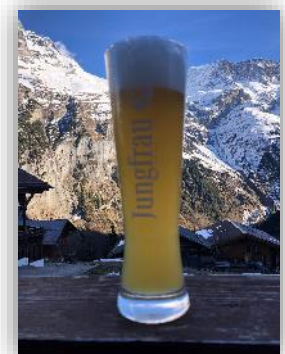
For those people that do not want to buy a pair, they can be easily rented from most sport shops for a small fee. It is important to get the right shoes for your weight, otherwise you risk sinking into the snow, which makes it considerably harder, and you become tired much quicker. Also, there are different shoes for different types of terrain, but a good sport shop will help you out. Adjustable walking poles with snow plates are also required. It does take a little while to get used to them, and I recommend walking on the flat first, before trying steep slopes. Do expect to trip over in the beginning - it is all part of the fun.



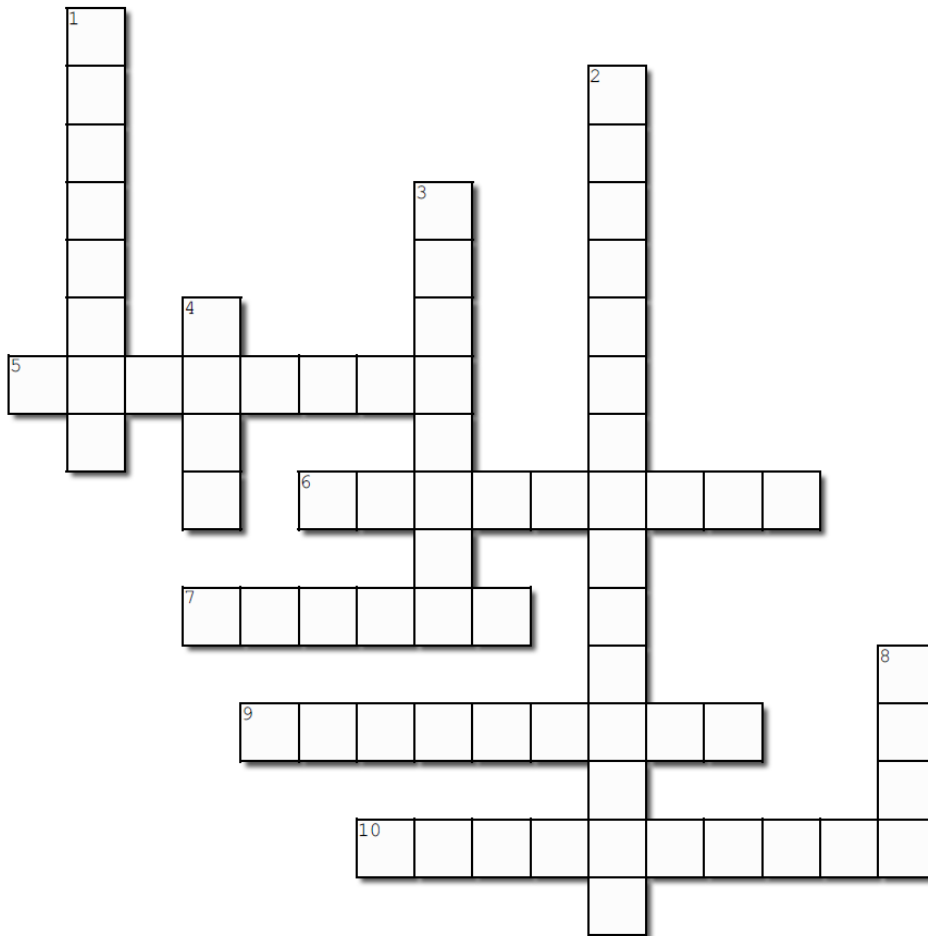
Tours can be as short or as long as you like. Take some food and a flask or visit the local places and sample their produce. There is nothing like a cool local beer after a hard tour.



And the best thing for me is that I have a train pass that covers all forms of public transport. Next time you are in Switzerland in winter, give it a go.



# What do you know about Switzerland?



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

## Across

5. In this Swiss canton German and French is spoken?
6. Lake Toma in Graubunden is the source of the river Rhine. Which sea does the Rhine flow into?
7. What is the highest peak in Switzerland
9. What natural phenomenon creates the most danger in winter
10. What is the capital city of Canton Thurgau called?

## Down

1. The highest peak that can be reached by without having to use climbing equipment is 3610 m. Which one is it?
2. Despite global warming, some of the glaciers in Switzerland are still in good condition. Which one is the largest?
3. Eiger, Mönch and
4. How many countries does Switzerland border?
8. In which Canton is Montreux the heart of Swiss Jazz fans to be found?

# Something for the children

Easter is not too far away, and hopefully the Easter Bunny will visit you.

Can you write the correct colour of the bunny in French and German using the word list below and spot the odd one out?

blau - braun - gelb - grau - grün - lila - orange - rosa - rot - schwarz - türkis - weiss

blanc - bleu - gris - jaune - marron - noir - orange - rosa - rouge - turquoise - vert - violet



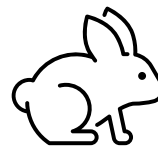
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## Gruyère



When one hears Gruyère mentioned, most people automatically think of cheese, which it is certainly famous for. However, the town and the area offer many other fabulous things to do aside from the show cheese factory. One of my favourites for its quirkiness is the HR Giger Museum and the bar opposite the museum. Giger is most famous for his contributions to the movie Alien. His work is somewhat macabre and bizarre but nonetheless very interesting and worth looking at. Whilst he was born in Chur, he visited Gruyère for an exhibition and fell in love with the place so he set about designing his own museum.

Whilst moderately expensive the Giger Museum bar is worth the experience just to view the inside and drink the alien slime whilst sitting in a chair of alien bones.

Aside from the museum, Gruyère is a beautiful medieval walled town that offers stunning views and some other great activities which I will save for another newsletter.



*For more information about HR Giger, it is worth reading the long biography on the museum website: click on this [link](#).*

