

REGIONAL EDITION

OCEANIA

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27 August 2017

Editorial: Elections of CSA delegates in Australia

It's time to vote! Campaigning has begun for the election of the four Australian representatives on the Council of Swiss Abroad for the term 2017–2021. There are eight candidates; three of these are the current delegates who are seeking re-election.

A short version of each candidate's profile is listed here in alphabetical order. However, to ensure you make the right choice, please read their full profile on the websites of the OSA or CSA Oceania:

Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA): www.aso.ch
CSA Oceania: www.csa-oceania.org

Also in this edition, Consul General Ernst Steinmann is providing some very important information on how to claim a tax deduction from the Australian Taxation Office on a pension (AHV/AVS or IV/AI) paid by the Swiss Social Insurance. Thanks to the initiative of Consul General Steinmann, receiving a pension from Switzerland has become much fairer for beneficiaries in Australia.

Finally, we warmly welcome the new job-sharing Swiss Ambassadors to Oceania, Yasmine Chatila Zwahlen and Pedro Zwahlen, and wish them a pleasant and rewarding time downunder.

ROLAND ISLER | REGIONAL EDITOR, OCEANIA



MARIO A. BASSI

Place of Residence: Sydney, New South Wales

Profession: Dr. iur. / Senior Wealth Management Executive

Living in Australia since: 2013

Interests: Family, travelling, AFL, Rugby (Union), meeting people and having interesting conversations.

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

- Set-up the University of Zurich Alumni Chapter in Sydney (inaugural event with CH Ambassador at Residence of Consul General in Sydney);
- Regular contact with CH Consulate General in Sydney;
- Regular contact with Swiss Australian Chamber of Commerce (SwissCham);
- Regular contact with Swiss-Australian Academic Network (SAAN).

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

I feel in many ways proud to be Swiss and this sense of belonging has increased since we left Switzerland in 2001. During our 12 years in Singapore I found various ways to honour this privilege and I am keen to continue my service here in Australia.



ROLAND ISLER

Place of Residence: Melbourne, Victoria

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

Living in Australia since: 1982

Interests: History, arts and music, literature, politics and current affairs, Swiss presence in Australia.

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

- Hon. Life Member and Past-President of the Swiss Club of Victoria;
- Member of the Swiss Society of Victoria (SSV) Assistance Committee;
- Member of the CSA since 2009;
- Chair and Organiser of the Oceania Swiss Club Presidents' Conference in Melbourne 2016;
- *Swiss Review* Regional Editor for Oceania.

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

I am passionate about Switzerland, its culture and its people, wherever they live. My experience and knowledge, together with my active engagement in the Swiss Community make me familiar with and sensitive to the needs of Swiss Abroad.



KLAUS BEAT EMANUEL KNOBLAUCH

Place of Residence: Sydney, New South Wales

Profession: Business & Financial Consultant, Lic. iur. (Berne)

Living in Australia since: 1976

Interests: www.knoblauch.com.au, choir, classics, reading, tennis, travel, politics, collecting art.

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

- Past-President of Swiss University Graduates Australia;
- Past-President of Swiss Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (now SwissCham);
- Vice-President and Past-Trustee of the Swiss Community Care Society (SCCS);
- Member of the CSA since 2009;
- Chair and Organiser of the Oceania Swiss Club Presidents' Conference in Canberra 2014.

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

CSA is the only representative body of the Swiss Abroad. Full use must be made of its potential as a lobbying organisation. I will continue to promote debate of all matters Swiss and liaise effectively with the Swiss authorities and their representatives in Australia.

Elections of CSA delegates in Australia, cont.

In the past, delegates to the Council of the Swiss Abroad were elected by the registered Swiss associations in Australia. This time, however, Australia is taking part in an e-voting pilot program which gives all eligible Swiss in Australia, i.e. those who are over 18 years of age and have registered their email with the Consulate General in Sydney, the opportunity to elect their representatives. If you have not yet provided the Consulate with your personal email address, you must do so by the end of May via the online desk on www.eda.admin.ch/ or by contacting the consulate on syd.vertretung@eda.admin.ch

Participation in this e-voting pilot program is a unique opportunity to make your voice heard, don't miss out!

The election will be carried out entirely by electronic means. Voting codes will be emailed by 12 June and voters will have until 27 June to cast their vote. Results will be announced by the end of June. Information about the election, candidates and results can be found on the OSA

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and CSA Oceania websites, relevant social media channels and in the regional pages of the *Swiss Review*.

Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA): www.aso.ch

CSA Oceania: www.csa-oceania.org



HANS RUDOLF (JOHN) LENGACHER

Place of Residence: Melbourne, Victoria

Profession: Personal Travel Manager

Living in Australia since: 1982

Interests: Travel, marathon running, food.

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

Whilst I am not a member of the Swiss club, I do eat there occasionally. I keep up with our community's activities via the SC Online Magazine and of course keenly follow events in Switzerland.

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

In same-sex relationship with Australian partner for 35 years. Passions are travelling, distance running and food. Striving to represent our diverse community.



JAMES SCHMIDLI

Place of Residence: Melbourne, Victoria

Profession: Operations Manager

Living in Australia since: 2011

Interests: Wine, kitesurfing, travelling, publishing, business governance.

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

Being a Swiss citizen with extended family in Switzerland, New Zealand and Australia I have a strong connection with my Swiss homeland. With a unique appreciation of the cultural and political differences between Oceania and Europe, I am prepared to represent the Swiss community in Australia to the best of my ability ensuring all channels of influence are used to ensure the most beneficial outcome for all Swiss citizens whether based in our homeland or abroad.

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

To ensure all Swiss citizens living in Australia can have their voices heard, and so that future generations can enjoy the rich cultural experiences of being a Swiss living abroad.



CARMEN TROCHSLAR

Place of Residence: Adelaide, South Australia

Profession: Swiss Lawyer, MLaw (St. Gallen) MBA (Adelaide), Rural Surgery Coordinator

Living in Australia since: 2010

Interests: Exploring Australia with my family, sailing, skiing, reading, politics and current affairs.

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

- Member of Swiss Club of South Australia since 2011 (Committee 2012-2014);
- Producer of Swiss Radio Program at community radio station 5EBI since 2012;
- Founder of www.swissdownunder.org / FB Swiss Down Under – an advice hub for Swiss moving to and living in Australia (since 2014);
- Member of the CSA since 2015.

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

Active representation of the Swiss Abroad is based on good dialogue within our community. My open and proactive approach coupled with my professional experience and network in both countries can help to identify and respond to the needs of the Swiss Abroad effectively.

Australian Taxation of Swiss Pension Income (AHV/AVS or IV/AI)

How to claim a tax deduction from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) on a pension paid by the Swiss Social Insurance

If you are receiving an income from the Swiss Social Insurance (AHV/AVS or IV/AI) you may be entitled to claim a deduction, to reduce the amount of tax you pay. The deduction only applies if your pension has an 'Undeducted Purchase Price' (UPP). The UPP is the amount you contributed towards your Swiss Social Insurance in Switzerland – your personal contributions. The UPP does not include the contributions made by any employers.

Australia has made agreements with various countries (e.g. Germany, Italy and Austria) to determine the deductible amount. Discussions aimed at achieving a similar agreement between Australia and Switzerland are ongoing. As a temporary solution, however, beneficiaries of a Swiss pension (AHV/AVS or IV/AI) can individually claim a deduction. For this purpose, you have to complete a 'Request for a determination of the deductible amount of UPP of a foreign pension or annuity', which can be downloaded from the ATO website: <http://tinyurl.com/ksto990>

To allow the ATO to determine your eligibility, you will need to request a statement from the Swiss Compensation Office in Geneva (Switzerland), certifying the total amount of your personal contribution paid into the Swiss Social Insurance. The

necessary application form can be downloaded from the website of the Consulate General of Switzerland in Sydney:

<http://tinyurl.com/n2755kh>

The completed form should be sent by post or email directly to Geneva.

The Consulate General of Switzerland and the Swiss Compensation Office in Geneva can only advise on the process of obtaining your personal contribution figure. Any questions relating to claiming UPP deductions and taxation must be addressed to the ATO.

ERNST STEINMANN | CONSUL GENERAL OF SWITZERLAND, SYDNEY



KATJA WALLIMANN GATES

Place of Residence: Brisbane, Queensland

Profession: Homemaker, Biologist

Living in Australia since: 1994

Interests: Science, education, politics, arts, disabilities and travel.

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

- Member of Swiss Society of Queensland and Swiss Yodel Choir since 1995, Secretary in 2009 and President since 2010;
- Editor of Swiss News Queensland for four years;
- Initiator of the Swiss-German Mothers' Group in 1999;
- Attendee at the inaugural Swiss Presidents' Meeting held in Geneva as well as the subsequent Congress of the Swiss Abroad in 2015;
- Attendee at the Swiss Club Presidents' Conference in Canberra and Melbourne.

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

I love being a Swiss expatriate in Australia! In Queensland I work to support Swiss people, promote our culture, and expand our networks. It would be my honor to continue this work throughout Australia and to represent you in Switzerland.



PATRICK WILLE

Place of Residence: Adelaide, South Australia

Profession: Legal Practitioner

Living in Australia since: 2005

Interests: Sports (soccer & basketball), travel, fine dining, wine and music.

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

Since moving to Australia in 2005, I have been actively involved in the Swiss community in Australia, including as a Member of the Swiss Club of South Australia (since 2005) and the Swiss-Australian Chamber of Commerce (SwissCham Australia). I represent the Swiss Club on the Management Committee of the School for the German Language, assist members of the Swiss community, advise the Swiss Consulate General on various legal matters and assist them in their negotiations with Australian federal authorities. I also provide legal advice to numerous Swiss citizens in Australia.

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

I'm actively engaged in the local Swiss community and help many Swiss with their legal issues in Australia and Switzerland. If elected, I will continue to lobby for easy access to Swiss banking services and simpler tax treatment of AHV pensions.

Community News and Events

VIC: Trachtengruppe Schwyzgruess A.S.C.C

Senior Citizens over sixty and their partners (none-Swiss partners welcome!) are warmly invited to a wonderful afternoon of **Coffee, Cakes and a Chat = Kaffeeklatsch** at the Swiss Club of Victoria on 27 August, 2pm.

There is no charge for this cosy afternoon, however, our group is thankful for any donations.

Please reserve a place by ringing Marlies Krummenacher on 9503 9921 or 0423 765 986.

NSW: Cercle Romand Sydney

Our 40th year activities continue for the Cercle Romand with a bush walk on 25 June. We will again have a stall at the celebration of our Swiss National Day at Castle Hill on 6 August, selling our genuine Swiss cheese raclette. On 27 August we will be holding our annual general meeting, everyone welcome.

For more information go to www.cercleromand.com.au

Embassy: Introducing the new Swiss Ambassador-Team for Oceania!

As a novelty in Oceania, the Federal Council has appointed a job-sharing couple to represent the Swiss Government in the Australia-Pacific region. While the two Ambassadors share the responsibility of the Head of Mission at the Embassy of Switzerland in Canberra, they clearly separate their respective accreditations and look after the Swiss relations with a range of different countries in our region: Pedro Zwahlen is the new Ambassador of Switzerland to Australia, whereas Yasmine Chatila Zwahlen has been appointed Ambassador of Switzerland to Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

■ **Pedro Zwahlen** has a Degree in History, Islamic Studies and Constitutional Law from the University of Berne. After two years in the Swiss Ministry of Defense, Mr Zwahlen began his diplomatic career in 1998, first at the Directorate of Political Affairs in Berne, followed by the Swiss Embassy in Rome. From 2000 to 2001, he worked in the Arms Control Section of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy. In 2001, Mr Zwahlen was transferred to the Swiss Embassy in Damascus as Deputy Head of Mission. In the same capacity, he was transferred to the Embassy in Lisbon in 2005. Back at Headquarters in 2008, Mr Zwahlen became the Head of the International Security Section and, in 2010, he was promoted Deputy Director of the Division for Security Policy and Crisis Management.



■ **Yasmine Chatila Zwahlen** has a Degree in Islamic Studies, Languages of Northern Africa and Western Asia, as well as English Literature from the University of Berne. She commenced her diplomatic career in 1994, first at the Swiss Development Cooperation in Berne, followed by the Swiss Embassy in Cairo. From 1995 to 1997, she was responsible for the Middle East Desk of the Political Planning Staff of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. Between 1997 and 2001, she acted as Foreign Affairs Spokeswoman. In that capacity, she initiated a Swiss Government Information Service in Geneva, catering for international media accredited both to the United Nations Office and the Swiss Government. In 2001, Ms Chatila was transferred to the Swiss Embassy in Damascus as Deputy Head of Mission, and, in 2005, to the Swiss Embassy in Lisbon, again as Deputy Head of Mission. Back at Headquarters in 2008, Ms Chatila took over the responsibility for the Science Diplomacy Section.

In July 2012, the Swiss Government appointed Yasmine Chatila Ambassador of Switzerland to Costa Rica. At the same time, her husband Pedro Zwahlen was appointed Ambassador of Switzerland to El Salvador, Nicaragua and Panama. Both appointments were based at the Embassy in San José de Costa Rica.

On 1 September 2016, Mr Zwahlen took up his new assignment as Ambassador of Switzerland to Australia. In January 2017, Yasmine Chatila arrived in Canberra to take up her duties as Ambassador to Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. They have two teenage children who are studying in Canberra.

Yasmine Chatila and Pedro Zwahlen are both looking forward to meeting and working with the Swiss communities in this region!

SEARCH FOR HEIRS

The Court of Locarno-Campagna (Swiss authority) is looking for information about the following persons:

Bernice Adelina Barloggio (03.11.1913), Edward Henry Barloggio (16.11.1906), Peter Vernon Barloggio (15.07.1920), Walter Albert Barloggio (03.10.1904), Lucille Corda, n. Pura (1927), Vernon Pura (1924), Raymond Pura (1930), Mary Louise Shelhaas, n. Pura (1929), Roth Evelyn, n. Bernasconi (1934), Arlene Bassetti, n. Bernasconi (1941), Matthew-Henry Barloggio (23.03.1900), Celesta Mignola, n. Scamara and Martina Rossi (21.10.1899).

Anyone who can give information regarding these persons, their descendants or heirs is requested to contact the Court of Locarno-Campagna by 31 April, 2018. Thereafter the inheritance will be awarded to the known heirs.

Court of Locarno-Campagna, Via della Pace 6, 6600 Locarno, Switzerland

THE SWISS COMMUNITY IN OCEANIA

There are over 32,000 registered Swiss living in the region of Oceania.

The **CSA Oceania** – the Council of the Swiss Abroad representing the Swiss community of Oceania – consists of a team of six elected council members, two from New Zealand and four from Australia. Together they work on behalf of the Swiss Abroad in Oceania, representing their interests as Swiss citizens living in this region.

The CSA Oceania website (see right) was established by the current CSA delegates to provide news and information for and about the Swiss Abroad in Oceania, about the **Organisation of the Swiss Abroad** and the **CSA Oceania**. It also aims to facilitate networking and provide a point of contact for anyone wishing to join a community group, interested in the services of an organisation or needing the contact details of an official Swiss representation (Embassy, Consulate).

Go to www.csa-oceania.org for a complete list of:

■ Swiss Community Groups ■ Swiss Organisations ■ Swiss Representations

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www.csa-oceania.org

the website for the Swiss Community of Oceania – brought to you by your delegates to the Council of the Swiss Abroad

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