

REGIONAL NEWS

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Editorial

Dear readers,

Another year has gone by quickly, and it has been a busy one for South Africa with its current drought and the challenges that are directly connected to it. Let's hope that we are better prepared in 2019. In this regard, I wish you a good and water-wise year.

Happy reading,

Gisela Piercey



GISELA PIERCEY,
EDITOR SWISS REVIEW
SOUTHERN AFRICA

SWISS SAILBOAT "FLEUR DE PASSION" STOPS IN CAPE TOWN

Arriving from Durban in mid-December 2018, the 33m-long ketch docked at V&A Waterfront in January 2019 as part of "The Ocean Mapping Expedition", a 4-year journey around the world (2015-2019) in the wake of Magellan combining science, education and culture.

Lucky those who took advantage of the opportunity to feel the thrill of adventure! The traditional sailing boat "Fleur de Passion" who had set sail from Seville in April 2015 arrived in Cape Town in mid-December. This two-mast and currently biggest

sailboat under Swiss flag is above all the flag-ship of "The Ocean Mapping Expedition", a four-year journey around the world in the wake of the famous Portuguese navigator, some 500 years after the first ever circumnavigation. Led by Geneva-based non-profit Fondation Pacifique with the support of the Canton of Geneva, the project combines



scientific, educational and cultural programs in order to better understand the human impact on

The traditional sailing boat would like to raise awareness of the human impact on the oceans.



The "Fleur de Passion" arrives in Cape Town.

the oceans and raise awareness of the related sustainable development issues.

At the helm, three different crews of experienced sailors rotate every two months each to operate the programs on micro-plastic and noise pollution as well as on greenhouse gases at the surface of the oceans, this latter program in partnership with the University of Geneva.

Among the people who also take part in the adventure are teenagers from the “Youth At Seas” socio-educational program, cartoonists and illustrators as well as passengers eager to share the



The Geneva-based non-for-profit organization Fondation Pacifique leads “The Ocean Mapping Expedition”.

experience of life at sea on a «working boat» where everyone is a crew member.

With the support of the Embassy of Switzerland in South Africa, the General Consulate in Cape Town and Pro Helvetia, “Fleur de Passion” stopover in V&A Waterfront from 3rd to 24th January 2019 offered a wide range of occasions to share the spirit and achievements of this unique expedition. The must was definitely guided tours on board to discover how a former WWII German Navy minesweeper was turned into a sailboat in the mid-70's and has since then been dedicated to peaceful activities for the common good; and the “Our Spice Islands” exhibition displaying the rich and colorful drawings, sketches or cartoons produced by the - mainly Swiss but including a South African - artists who embarked “in residence” from Seville to Cape Town.

For more information on the expedition or even to join in as a passenger :

www.fondationpacifique.ch -
www.omexpedition.ch -
www.facebook.com/omexpedition

THE SWISS CONNECTED AGAIN

Swiss Connection Cape Town held another networking event on 26 November at Erinvale Hotel in Somerset West where Dr. Ronnie van der Merwe presented an interesting talk and gave a better understanding of Mediclinic and their involvement with the Hirslanden hospital group.

We are grateful to Urs Kern, the GM and his team of the Erinvale Hotel for hosting us, for the generous, sumptuous Curry buffet and the tasty desserts including Christmas Cookies! For those who had time, we were even taken on a tour of the hotel. The Erinvale

Hotel is a great destination to enjoy a nice lunch under the Oak trees or to be treated at their Spa.

Yves Musfeld of Onderkloof sponsored the wine tasting. Another big thank you goes to our Consul General Andreas Manager for organising the speaker and his support, as well as Joel and Anja for the preparation of this event.

The photos will be uploaded onto our website, which is still under construction, but you can see what we are working on:

<https://www.swiss-connection.info>

Michael Hauser



All the CEO's since the foundation of Mediclinic, Dr. Ronnie van der Merwe, Michael Hauser, Swiss General Consul Andreas Maager and Urs Kern, GM of Erinvale Hotel (from the left).

LIFE CERTIFICATE FOR PENSION BENEFITS

Once a year, all recipients of pension benefits receive a “Life Certificate” form directly from the Swiss Compensation Office in Geneva (SCO), which must be filled in to confirm that they are still alive and to also confirm that their marital status is up-to-date.

The form must also be authenticated in South Africa either by a Swiss representation abroad, Home Affairs, a Commissioner's of Oath (police station) or by the Swiss representative in the other countries of Southern Africa. You will be requested to present a valid identity document (passport or identity card). You should receive

the form for the first time, one year after you become eligible for a pension.

To ensure uninterrupted payment of your pension, the form must be sent within 90 days to the Swiss Compensation Office in Geneva. If not received within the given deadline, payment of your pension benefit will be stopped automatically.

You are also required to notify the SCO immediately of any changes to your personal circumstances likely to result in your pension amount being revised as well as any changes in your home or payment address.

Should you not receive the "Life Certificate" form in time, you can download a blank form from the website of the Regional Consular Center for Southern Africa and the Consulate General in Cape Town.

You would need to fill in the blank form with all the required details and have it authenticated the usual way.

For more information, please consult our website:

<https://www.eda.admin.ch/pretoria>

ASO

Another eventful year has passed and ASO had held a very successful congress in Visp, located in the upper (German speaking) part of

the Valais. On a sad note we say good by to Sarah Mastantuoni, one of the two directrices of ASO. Ariane Rustichelli will from now on lead the directorate ASO on her own.

Yet another successful event was held in Johannesburg in cooperation with the Swiss Clubs JHB and PTA in September for members of the larger Swiss Community, concentrating on options available to conduct banking and/or investments. This event was held and sponsored by Levantine Corp. from Cape Town. Our thanks go to Laurent Joly and Frédéric Mariette for their efforts in this regard.

The 2019 ASO Congress will be held in Montreux from 16 to 18 August.

Together with my ASR colleague Marcie Bischof, we wish all Swiss Compatriots in Southern Africa a good start in 2019!

Hans-Georg Bosch

ASR delegate for Southern Africa ASR

SWISS CLUB INFO

SWISS CLUB IN JOHANNESBURG:

Swiss Society Helvetia, 31 Moerdyk Ave, Vorna Valley, Midrand, Chairman: Mario Valli, 082 451 8040; office: Max Waspe 083 412 0161, T 0118053039, office@swissclubjhb.co.za, www.swissclubjhb.co.za, Swiss

Country Club Rest. «The Courier», Wolfgang Wollauz, T/F 0118053040, C 0825610063, Tue-Sat 11-21h30 Rest./kitchen, 11-24h Bar, Sun 10-17h, T/F 011 805 3040, C 082561 0063, www.dining-out.co.za «The Courier». Please visit our website for information and updates on events at the club.

Our Clubs of Society: Afro Gugge, Amicale Suisse Romande, Boccia, Skittling Club. Associated Groups: Swiss Choir, Swiss Rifle Club, Swiss Golf, G.S.N.A. Senior Swiss Circle meets every 2nd Saturday of the month for Lunch. Swiss Ladies meet every 4th Thursday of the month for lunch. Swiss Rifle Club Johannesburg: We shoot every 4th Sat of the month, from 9am. We normally shoot two different programs, with Swiss rifles, provided by the club. Visit our Facebook site or call Daniel: 082-5699146.

SWISS CLUB IN PRETORIA:

Swiss Society Alpina, Hans-Georg Bosch, President, T 0123478310, C 0825510222, swissclub.pta@hbosch.com, Biffy van Rooyen, Secretary bvrooyen@gmail.com Facebook group: Swiss Club Alpina 2018 has been a very successful year for our club with a strong influx of new members. Our Club continues to attract younger members which will ensure the long term survival of the club. Having a dedicated team on the council who organise events for our younger members has been most successful. In 2019 we will



IMPRESSUM

Delegates of the Organisation of the

Swiss Abroad for Southern Africa:

Marcie Bischof, Cape Town,

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NEXT DEADLINES - 2018

Issue	Next Deadline	Distribution
SR 02/19	21/02/2019	28/03/2019
SR 03/19	18/04/2019	28/05/2019
SR 04/19	22/08/2019	29/11/2019

FOR ADDRESS CHANGES, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICIAL SWISS REPRESENTATION IN YOUR COUNTRY DIRECTLY.

continue to have our regular events, those being the AGM in February and the Fondue evening in June. The National Day celebrations will take place on 3rd August at the Johannesgemeinde Church Hall (next to the DSP).

Hans-Georg Bosch, President.

SWISS CLUB IN CAPE TOWN:

Swiss Social&Sports Club, Green Point Common, Off Bill Peters Road, Green Point, PO Box 2279, Cape Town 8000, T 0214348405 www.swissclub.co.za.

PRESIDENT: Nicky Rodrigues president@swissclub.co.za C 082 921 7729. VICE PRESIDENT/Treasurer: Andreas Reichmuth,

treasurer@swissclub.co.za

C 083 297 3803. SECRETARY/ASO Representative: Marcie Bischof, aso@swissclub.co.za, catering@swissclub.co.za C 076 389 7824

To receive the “newsflash” contact the club at catering@swissclub.co.za or on 0214348405. The Swiss club Cape Town is open for dinner every Thursday evening. Every 1st Thursday of the month is Pensioner's Lunch. Join the Swiss Jass players every LAST thursday of the month. There is much more happening at our club, meeting friends, host a party, club events etc. For more information, please send an email to:

info@swissclub.co.za.

The independent Swiss Rifle Club can be found on the Swiss Club Cape Town club's website www.swissclub.co.za under rifle club and on Facebook.

President: Dierk Lüthi,

hdluthi@gmail.com &

dierk@telkomsa.net; C 0834414626

Shooting takes place mostly at the SA Navy 'Klawer Valley' range off Red Hill road above Simon's Town. Shooting dates and times are listed on the website and on the 2

Facebook pages. Next 2019 date is Saturday 16 February at 11:30. The

'Feldschiessen', to which all Swiss are invited, takes place on Saturday 2 March and Sunday 17 March, starting at 10:30.

SWISS CLUB NATAL:

President Philippe Lanz C 082 4932673, T 031 765 1625,

p.lanz@absamail.co.za JASS

EVENINGS held second Friday of every month at the LAPA, Ethelbert Village, 5 Park Road, Malvern at 7pm. SPORT TARGET SHOOTING – held on the 4th Saturday of every month (weather permitting) at 0830am on 23rd February, 23rd March, 27th April 2019. AGM – 3rd March 2019 at Augusta Estate, Gillitts.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: *For up-to-date information regarding times/venues/ directions and any changes, please visit our informative WEBSITE –

www.swissclubnatal.org.za

SWISS CLUB PORT ELIZABETH:

comm.member Mark Krebs C 0823214693, T w 0413671422; Heidi Schultes, secretary, C 0613696598

Again, we spent a cozy fondue party in the Italian club house. We welcomed over 40 participants who have contributed to the success of the evening. Special thanks to the diligent helpers in the background who made this event possible. We are already looking forward to the next event - the General Assembly - which will take place on March 15, 2019. We

are looking forward to your numerous appearance. Heidi Schultes.

SWISS CLUB EAST LONDON:

c/o Christine and Paul Stiffler, T 0437483542, C 0837008846, C 0832874324,

christinestiffler@telkomsa.net

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