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www.swiss.org.au/ssq



SSQ get-together with Bonfire and Hungi (1 August 1976)



Jass champions (1974)



Jass picnic (1989)



Car rally (1989)





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Special anniversary edition August 2015

On-line version: http://swiss.org.au/ clubs/ssq/ SNQ50Anniversary15.pdf

THE MISSION OF THE SWISS SOCIETY

Preserve and promote the Swiss heritage and goodwill between Australia and Switzerland through social and cultural activities.

> ABN 79 756 877 680

Pictures on front page (from top left):

- 1 August 1993
- Jass champions 1974
- SSQ Hungi 1976
- 1 August 1993 (2x)
- Jass picnic 1989
- Children playing 1986
- 1 August 2011
- Santa Claus 2013Fraser Coast Cultural
- Festival 2013

Celebrating 50 years SSQ

Dear members and friends of the SSQ,

50 years ago in 1965 a group of dedicated Swiss founded the Swiss Society of Queensland (SSQ) in Brisbane.



2015 marks the anniversary of the club and it is a great honour for me and the committee to be able to celebrate this major milestone with you.

Our club is a meeting place for Swiss and anyone else with a connection to Switzerland, to share stories, experiences, to help one another and to have fun. Keeping Swiss traditions alive, passing them on to the next generation and providing a link to our old homeland is another important function of the club.

The vision, passion and drive of the founders 50 years ago ensured that we now have a club we can be very proud of. But we wouldn't be where we are today without the help of many members who have tirelessly worked over the years to keep the club alive and flourishing. The committee and I would like to express our gratitude and thanks to all the volunteers and helpers.

To celebrate 50 years SSQ, we would like to invite all members for lunch on board the famous ship *Kookaburra Queen*. For more details please see page 16.

I also wish to express our thanks to Peter Gloor and Max Braendle, who provided the text for this special anniversary edition. I have also managed to find a few old photos thanks to Lorly Wihler and Sybille Goss.

It's not easy to gather material and photos from 50 years ago but I believe this edition will give you an interesting insight into the history of our club and I hope you enjoy reading it.

Reading through the old magazines showed me how much fun members had over the years and I look forward to taking part of more such fun events in the future.

Rita von Rotz President, Swiss Society of Qld



Swiss Society of Queensland The Beginning

Swiss immigrants were amongst the first 'white' people to settle in Brisbane. From 1843-46 a Swiss Romand was one of the first Catholic missionaries to live and work with Australia's Aboriginals by joining the Minjerriba people of Stradbroke Island. Swiss Domenico Pedrazzini, a sheppard, arrived in Moreton Bay in 1855 and was naturalized in 1870. During the 1860's saddler John Albiez owned a small farm in South Brisbane. It was there where the German Swiss used to meet. and where newly arrived Swiss migrants were given hospitality and the names and addresses of fellow Swiss living in Brisbane and other places in Queensland. These were the early beginnings of a future Club.

Swiss migration 'boomed' and according to the census of 1891 some 2086 Swiss were living in Australia, with approximately 1300 living in Queensland. In 1889 Jakob Leutenegger became the first Honorary Swiss Consul for Queensland when aged only 24. The Leutenegger family became prominent business people in Brisbane and Jakob's three grandsons attended the inaugural meeting of the Swiss Society of Queensland in 1965.

However, before the foundation of the SSQ in Brisbane, during the mining boom of the 1950s and 1960s, young and mainly male Swiss employees at Mt Isa Mines Ltd regularly met socially without ever forming an association. Swiss migration continued strongly post World War II however it was the capitals of Melbourne and Sydney who attracted most and offered good job opportunities. Queensland had already the most decentralised population in Australia, a demographic which implied a disincentive for the possible establishment of a Swiss association in Brisbane. In the mid 1950s migrants from Switzerland gained access to the Assisted Passages Scheme which now encouraged settlement of Swiss in Brisbane and the Gold Coast. As had Jakob Leutenegger done, Swiss Charles Tschudin and newly arrived Hans Heer continued to provide assistance to Swiss newcomers to Brisbane.

With a much larger Swiss community in Brisbane and South East Queensland, Swiss Consul-General Mr J.J. Huber of Sydney made his first official visit to Brisbane. During this visit to Queensland Government representatives, Consul General Huber also needed to find a replacement for the long serving and now very aged Honorary Consular Agent Henry Schaub. A capable Swiss was found in Fred Pieren, a senior partner in a Queen Street law firm. Fred hailed from Thun and came to Australia aged 12.

On 6 November 1965, at a consular function held at the Lennon's Hotel, Fred Pieren informed those present that after consulting several prominent members of the Swiss community in Brisbane, he was very happy to announce the formation of the Swiss Society of Queensland. At the same time he said he is pleased to accept the presidency and that he would help with the design of a Club Constitution. Dr Max Braendle became Vice-President and Charles Tschudin filled the role of club secretary. Richard Senn, Dora Pflueger and Hans Heer accepted committee membership at this milestone meeting at the Lennon's Hotel.

Additional members were soon co-opted, including Walter Brunner, the future Honorary Consul for Queensland, and restaurateur Emil Helbling, representing the Gold Coast. At Consul-General Huber's suggestion the nomenclature 'Swiss Society' rather than 'Swiss Club' was adopted as it was envisaged that the new social club for the Swiss would also engage in a range of cultural and representative activities.

And it was thus that the Swiss Society of Queensland was born.



During this, his first visit to Brisbane, Consul-General Huber also participated at a picnic held at the banana plantation of Ernst and Dora Pflueger near the Queensland/New South Wales border. Some 120 people attended, children included. Pleasingly, several Swiss Romands were also in attendance as was one Swiss from the Ticino.

The newly founded Swiss Society of Queensland (SSQ) offered an annual single membership for 1 Australian Pound, or 2 of the new dollars to be introduced in 1966. Within a few months there were over 100 paid up members, including Swiss living on the Gold Coast, Northern New South Wales and in remote Queensland country areas. There were even financial members living as far away as in the Northern Territory. According to the register of the Consulate General of 1965 there were some 430 Swiss living in Queensland. Today there are more than 10 times as many including second generation Swiss and Swiss Australian retirees from the southern States taking advantage of Queensland's climate.

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	Mr. & Mr. F.T. Havat 2.		3.00	
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Swiss Society of Queensland membership list (1967)

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Expenses for functions & postage	157	54		1	395	28		
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	679	99.	679	99			net income \$ 274.34	net income \$ 274.34.

Balance sheet Swiss Society of Queensland (1967)



Presidents and Committees

The first committee of the SSQ had just one female representative, Dora Pflueger from the canton of Thurgau. Fortunately this trend did not last long and many, many ladies have since contributed greatly to the well being of the SSQ by serving on the committee. Although named a 'Society' the SSQ became better known as the "Swiss Club" over the vears. It's 2nd president was Walter Brunner. a dental technician from Wavell Heights. Walter had a relatively short lived presidency as he was appointed the Swiss Consular Agent for Queensland not long after taking up the presidency. His successor was Hans Heer who was to become the longest serving president of the SSQ. Hans also became its first honorary member and was recognised for his extensive community service with the Queensland Migrant Service Medal and the Order of Australia (OAM).

After many years of successfully leading the "Club" as its President, Hans eventually decided it was time to 'pass the baton' to some 'fresh blood'. At the 1980 AGM, Peter Wihler took over. Attracting able and willing members to serve on the Executive occasionally posed a few problems, as it does to this day. A major crisis was experienced when at an AGM a Vice-President was elected who originated from one of Switzerland's neighbouring countries. In accordance with an unfortunate constitutional provision at the time, the Vice-President was to ascend to the presidency automatically. When the Swiss-born President completed his term of appointment and did not seek re-election, and impasse occurred as some members of the SSQ were of the view that only a Swiss should qualify for the position of President, an opinion shared by some of the staff at the Consulate General. There was considerable discord within the membership.

It should be noted that the new President spoke Swiss Dialect fluently, and was married to a Swiss woman. Fortunately, an amicable solution was reached and the SSQ once again had an united and effective leadership team. The list of presidents over the Club's 50 years existence is relatively short, an indication of the dedication of the incumbents with many serving for several years.

Fondue Evening 25 August 1979: Cost \$6.00 all inclusive. In the early/mid 80s Swiss Ladies Luncheons were all the rage.

The Club House Dream

In 1966, not long after the establishment of the "Swiss Club" SSQ members started discussing the possibility of acquiring or building a Club House in or near Brisbane. It was suggested that half of the net financial surplus from functions be allocated to a building fund. Then Treasurer, Sigi Oberlaender, an architect from Zurich, was particularly supportive of such a venture however, the 'money tree' for a club house grew very slowly. Unfortunately the dream of a club house proved to be another divisive issue amongst the membership, with many believing the Swiss community in Brisbane and immediate surroundings being too small to sustain such an undertaking. The club house dream resurfaced every now and then over the years. In 1967 Swiss real estate entrepreneur Fred Horat made available club facilities for the SSQ in his premises in Melbourne Street, South Brisbane. However, a more permanent location was needed and Fred subsequently offered a scheme of arrangements for premises in the CBD. Much discussion ensued once again with many



different opinions being voiced. Location was one major point of contention, with some preferring an inner city location and others a holiday lodge type of house (chalet) somewhere in the hinterland mountains. After extensive discussion and argument, it was decided to abandon all plans for a SSQ clubhouse, the major reason being the long term financial burden and liability such an enterprise would present for the SSQ.

But the idea lingered in some members' minds and eventually the 'dream' was partially realised when a sub-tenant agreement was struck with the Danish Club in their premises in Newstead in the 1990's. For many years this arrangement was working well but it all came to an end late in 2014 when the agreement was terminated by the SSQ Executive for many reasons.

November 1987: SSQ AGM recorded 111 financial members.

30 June 1999: The SSQ reported a profit of \$ 35.00 (!) for the 1998/99 financial year.

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Swiss Society of Queensland Journal (1968)



Club Activities

The mission statement of the Swiss Society of Queensland reads: Preserve and promote the Swiss heritage and goodwill between Australia and Switzerland through social and cultural activities.

To this effect, Swiss National Day has been and still is the most important event organised by the SSQ. Commenced for the first time in 1966, this important annual celebration is held during the weekend closest to 1st August. The first Swiss National Day held under the aegis of the SSQ was held at the Currumbin RSL Hall on the Gold Coast featuring the traditional paraphernalia of flags, lampions, cowbells, folkloric music and Swiss food. For many years the Swiss National Day was held at the Pony Club grounds in Ridgewood Heights near Algester. When this site eventually had to be abandoned due to housing estates being built, a new venue was found at the North Pine Country Park near Petrie. This venue again served the Swiss Club well until 2012 when the local authorities closed it for infrastructure improvements and subsequent alternative use. After a temporary relocation to the North Pine Pony Club in 2013, a new venue was found at the Samford Show Grounds where the 2014 National Day celebrations attracted a crowd of some 450 people. It is envisaged to continue the "1st August Feier" at this venue for the foreseeable future. And after years of the celebrations being held on the Sunday, it was changed to Saturday which proved to be a popular choice. And for the first time ever, participants had the opportunity to camp overnight, with some 20 families pitching their tents (and some caravans).

Unspunnenstein Champion SSQ 1 August 1979: A throw of 12'1" (3.681 m)

Camping weekends were very popular for many years before waning a bit with a shift in demographics in the Swiss community. but it is pleasing to note a resurgence in this activity in recent times. Who would forget the many rain sodden outings the Swiss endured with great humour and stoicism. No matter the location or how dry it was. when the Swiss came camping the heavens opened. It was entertainment plus, from watching the struggle with tent poles by some inexperienced campers, the ensuing "name calling" each other by otherwise loving couples, or witnessing the fainting by a regular and well-known male Swiss Club member who was immediately surrounded by many females and given lots of TLC. He thought this was a moment not to be missed and suggested he be given the "kiss of life" by some pretty female to ensure his return to well being. And didn't the kids have fun at these weekends, many of whom were astonished to see their fathers singing "Lumpelieder" at the top of their well oiled voices long into the night.

The SSQ Executives over the years endeavoured to cater for all Swiss Club members, organising many different events such as the ever popular Fondue and Raclette Evenings, Dinner dances, social gettogethers, and, in keeping with the mission statement of "...preserve Swiss heritage.." of course the much anticipated and loved Easter Bunny Day and Santa Claus for our younger members. Other past activities included car rallies, roller skate evenings, film nights, wine tasting and the infamous wine bottling parties where huge quantities of red wine were not only bottled and labelled with "Swiss Piss" stickers, but in equal measures guaffed. Ah, the days before RBT's !

Another regular event is the famous Gold Coast Club's "Metzgete", with a plentiful supply of freshly made sausages, assortment of meat, sauerkraut, potatoes etc.



Walking has always been and still is a much loved activity by Swiss and the SSQ organises a serious of bush walks from easy strolls along the beach to quite demanding 'climbing' of mountains such as Mt. Warning.

Over the years a number of other groups were formed by members of the SSQ such as the Swiss German Play Group and the Jass Group. Some eventually came to an end, like the Tennis Group, the Swiss Romand Group, the Swiss Radio 4EB group, and others. Others again have prospered and are now Clubs in their own rights.

27 August 1994: The 1st Metzgete at a cost of \$13.00 p.p. is announced only to be cancelled due to lack of interest with just one RSVP received.



Aelpler Chilbi (1981)



Expansion of the SSQ

As early as 1966 a Gold Coast Swiss Club was founded but did not survive for long when a key member returned to Switzerland. In later years a Gold Coast Group was reformed under the SSQ banner and today is a thriving 'club'. Other groups were formed at the Sunshine Coast and in Hervey Bay (Fraser Coast Group) to better cater for local Swiss without having to travel to Brisbane.

With Expo 88 in Brisbane becoming a reality, members of the SSQ recognised a great opportunity for the Club to promote Swiss Cultural Heritage and subsequently the now famous "Baergroeseli Jodel Choir" was formed in 1987. Fortunately their singing is outstanding and a far cry from that mentioned earlier at camping weekends etc, even if the latter was performed with equal enthusiasm.

Another group formed in 1987 due to Expo 88 was SACCI, the Swiss Australia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (as a chapter of SACCI in Sydney). Unfortunately it did not survive when the "long lunches" of the 80s and 90s eventually succumbed to economic pressures. However, another chapter came to life immediately following Expo 88 - the Queensland arm of the Swiss Community and Care Society. The Lions of Switzerland were so impressed with Expo 88, and particularly some senior members of the 'Swiss Club' that on their return home they decided to make a major donation to our Club of \$ 10,000 for a good cause. Max Braendle once again was instrumental in the negotiations and with general agreement of all concerned, the funds were handed to SACCI for safekeeping and administrative compliance. In turn, this generous donation was then made available to the Swiss Community and Care Society who continue to play a vital role within the Swiss community to this day, and hopefully for a long time yet.

30 May 1999: Swiss Group Radio 4EB ceases broadcasts.

Beginning 1988: the Jodel Choir officially announced their name of "Baerg-Roeseli".



Swiss Yodel Choir representatives at the official opening of the EXPO Monorail (1987). The beautiful St Bernard dog came all the way from the Tamborine Mountain, St Bernards Hotel.



Baerg-Roeseli performane in Buderim (2014)



Swiss Community and Care Society lunch in Buderim (2012)



The SNQ – Swiss News Queensland

No club can prosper without effective communication and the founding members of the SSQ recognised this early with the 1st edition of the Swiss News appearing on 19 November 1965. The cover was designed by Ernst Kloeti and the basic design retained well into the 21st century. SNQ had an initial edition of 100 which subsequently grew to over 400 copies. Its 1st Editor was Max Braendle, succeeded by Walter Brunner after the first 10 issues, SNQ not only provided club information but also served to communicate messages from the Swiss Government to the Swiss abroad as well as feature articles about current affairs in the homeland. The SNQ also became an important link to members outside of Brisbane and throughout the State as the only means of contact with fellow Swiss. In November 1975 the SNQ ceased to appear. It was assumed it had become redundant because a free magazine in English issued by the Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad in Berne would provide the necessary information. After some years it was realised this was not the case and on 1st February 1979 it was reborn with Peter Gloor as its new editor until 1982. Hans Heer and Peter Wihler took again charge of the printing with the blessing of their boss at James Ferguson Co. This continued for many years until more modern technology and the digital age finally took over in recent times.

Without the dedication of printers Hans Heer and Peter Wihler over many years there would not have been a SNQ. Their efforts are acknowledged and very much appreciated.

The SNQ continues to be a very important tool for the executive of the SSQ and these days appears both in printed form and in e-version. End 2009: Hans Heer retires as printer of the SNQ after 45 years.

June 1991 the SNQ is offered to readers living 125 km or further from Brisbane for \$5.00 per year.



The original cover design of the Swiss News Queensland. New design since 2011 (below).





Epilogue

The sourcing of exact data, dates, photos, membership details and lists proved to be very difficult due to an apparent lack of records (which is not very Swiss like..!).

The editor however very much acknowledges the invaluable assistance from Dr Max Braendle, from whose notes much of the information contained in this Special Edition of the SNQ was derived. Other details are mostly anecdotal or researched from existing copies of the SNQ. Therefore, apologies in advance for any errors and omissions. It is hoped though it gives readers a reasonable historical account of the Swiss Society of Queensland Inc. over its 50 year existence and hopefully serves as a reference source for future special editions.

Layout, and design has been provided again by our regular designer and printing has generously been donated by a Brisbane printery.

Peter Gloor

Editor - SNQ 50 Years Special Edition

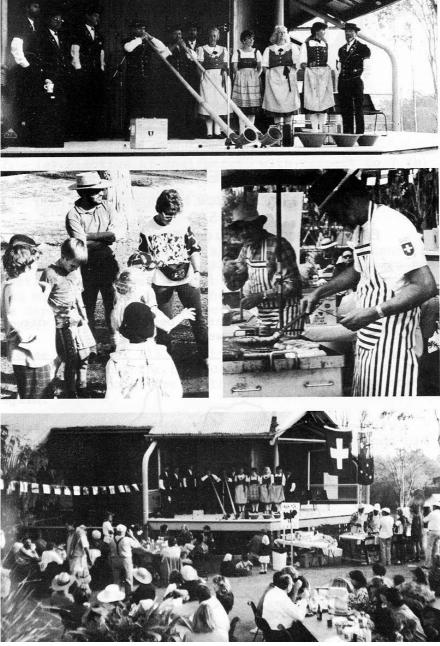
1982: The SSQ club T-shirt was sold for \$5.00 for sizes 10–12 and \$6.00 for sizes 14–20.



Club T-shirt (1982)

Club T-shirt (2015)





1 August celebration (1993)



Presidents of the Swiss Society of Queensland

1986

1991

1993

1995

2000

2002

2003

2007

2011

2013

Rene Alini

Marlies Lyman

Verena Meyer

Guy Limacher

Kevin Gates

Marc Godat

Sybille Goss

Ruth Millwright

Rita Von Rotz

Peter Weidmann

Fred Pieren	Queensland		
Walter Brunner	1965 – 1971	Fred Pieren	
Hans Heer	1971 – 1994	Walter Brunner	
Peter Wihler	1994 – 2008	Peter Gloor	
Marlies Dalle (Lyman)	2008 – current	Daniel Gschwind	
Felix Kuhn			

SSQ Honorary Life Members

SNQ Members serving as

Honorary Consuls for

Max Braendle Hans Heer Rene Alini Peter Wihler Erika Vincent Hans Vogt



President Board



26 January 2000: OAM awarded to Hans Heer and Max Braendle for outstanding services to the Swiss Community and multiculturism respectively.

Editors of the Swiss News Qld

1965 – 1970	Max Braendle
1970 – 1971	John Portman
1971 – 1972	Walter Brunner
1972 – 1974	Pierre Stolz
1974 – 1975	Max Braendle (Nov 1975 Issue No 26 was the last edition)
1975 – 1979	suspended
1979 – 1983	Peter Gloor (re-birth of the SNQ)
1983 – 1983	The Committee (F. Kuhn/S. Glausen)
1984 – 1985	Marlies Lyman
1985 – 1986	Marcelline Jobin
1986 – 1989	Silvia Alini/ Heather-Ann Brikker
1989 – 1990	Heather-Ann Brikker/ Juerg Camastral
1990 – 1991	Juerg Camastral/ Erika Vincent
1992 – 1994	Erika Vincent
1994 – 1997	Erich Schellinger
1997 – 2000	Katja and Kevin Gates
2000 – 2001	The Committee (various)
2001 – 2004	Corinne Fiechter
2004 – 2007	Caroline Sinnamon
2007 – 2011	Edi Braendli
2011 – current	Sybille Goss (Design: Alice Schwarz Brunold)

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS AND HELPERS

Without the assistance and help of our volunteers the club simply would not exist.

Here is a heartfelt THANK YOU to our volunteers and helpers who have contributed their time to the club over the past 50 years.

THANK YOU TO OUR MANY SPONSORS OVER THE PAST 50 YEARS

The Swiss Society of Queensland wishes to acknowledge the tremendous support of all our sponsors over the past 50 years.

We very much appreciate your past and present sponsorship, the generous donations and regular advertising in our Swiss News.

1991: Longtime supporter and sponsor of the Swiss News SWISSAIR closed their Brisbane Office.





ALL ON BOARD - let's celebrate 50 years SSQ

Saturday, 7 November 2015

After much deliberation and anticipation, the committee is excited to announce the celebration of 50 years since the inauguration of the Swiss Society of Queensland on 6 November 1965.

To mark this special event, we would like to invite the members of SSQ for lunch on board the famous ship *Kookaburra Queen*.

Seating is limited to 200 people and can only be confirmed after receiving your payment.

- Date: Saturday, 7 November 2015
- Boarding: 12noon

Departing: 12.30pm

Disembarking: Around 3.30pm

Costs: Per person \$15 children \$5

We will have an extensive lunch buffet. Drinks can be purchased at the bar at own costs.

Special guest:

Celebrating this special day with us will be Mr Ernst Steinmann, Consul General of Switzerland.

Reservation and payment enquiries:

Rita von Rotz, phone 3314 8344 or 0431 707 144

Anita Meier, phone 0401 957 309

Parking:

Ideal parking for KOOKABURRA QUEEN, both at same distance:

- 12 Creek Street, Brisbane, \$8 Weekend Parking
- Emirates House 145 175 Eagle Street, Brisbane, \$10 Weekend Parking

We hope that you can collect some wonderful memories on the day and look forward to celebrating this special milestone with you!



Swiss Society of Queensland Inc • Contact Details Mobile Position Name Home Phone Email Swiss Society of Queensland Inc swiss.org.au/ssq President: Rita von Rotz 0431 707 144 07 3314 8344 tari@swiss.org.au iosesunstar@gmail.com Vice-President: José Junao 0419 900 486 Anita Meier 0401 957 309 anita.meier72@bigpond.com Secretary: Treasurer: Peter Weidman 0407 733 202 peterweidmann@digisurf.net.au Committee René Alini 0408 982 025 07 3848 7519 ozalini@gmail.com members: j.berner@optusnet.com.au Jakob Berner 07 5432 8532 Gabriel Dubler 0435 570 241 07 3300 5421 adubler@swiss.org.au Sabrina Schmid sabrina@familvschmid.com 0434 085 521 Postal Address: PO Box 3240. Newstead Old 4006 ssa@swiss.org.au Sybille Goss (Editor) Swiss News 0424 064 789 07 3342 6430 editor@swiss.org.au Alice Schwarz Brunold (Design) editor@swiss.org.au World Wide Online Printing (Print) 07 3221 1033 www.worldwide.com.au SSQ Web Admin TBA TRA Other useful contacts Gold Coast Group www.swiss.org.au/gcs Franz Huber 0414 970 666 07 5530 5061 gcs@swiss.org.au Bruno Voat 07 5559 4600 Hansruedi & Merla Schwegler 07 5529 4763 Baerg-Roeseli Inc. www.swiss.org.au/syfg President: Katja Wallimann Gates 07 3871 1339 syfg@swiss.org.au Secretary: Iris Roethlisberger 07 3285 4818 Swiss Community Care Society www.swiss.org.au/sccsg President: Lorly Wihler 07 3298 5300 Secretary: Erika Vincent 02 6672 8591 Sunshine Coast: Ursula Sheldon 07 5443 4272 Fraser Coast Group www.swiss.org.au/page.php?UD=105 President: **Cecile Scherrer** 0409 286 326 07 4194 0105 cecile@swiss.org.au Sunshine Coast Swiss Club President: Hanni Kaech 07 5447 7548 SSO Jass Group Rita von Rotz 0431 707 144 07 3314 8344 tari@swiss.org.au Fredi Vogel 07 3289 1183 **Honorary Consul, Brisbane** Daniel Gschwind 07 3236 1445 brisbane@honrep.ch **Consulate General of Switzerland, Sydney** 02 8383 4000 www.eda.admin.ch/australia Swiss AHV/AVS www.iv.admin.ch





1 August celebration (2004)



Santa Claus (2005)



1 August celebration (2004)



Multicultural Day (2006)



Squiz Night (2006)



Squiz Night (2008)



Fasnacht (2009)



Squiz Night (2006)





Santa Claus (2011)



Fasnacht at Peter Wihler's place (1980)



Kids having fun at an SSQ event (1986)



Wet camping weekend (1985)



Bushwalk (2014)



Gold Coast Picnic (2014)









Fasnacht Dinner Dance (2013) Masquerade (2014)



Samichlaus at Peter Gloor's property (1983)



Santa Claus (2013)



Gold Coast Metzgete (2011)



Bustrip (2012)



Kasperli (1990)







Easter Bunny (2014)