

REGIONAL NEWS

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Editorial

Dear readers,

Congratulations to ASO for fighting successfully for the Swiss living abroad: both the Nationalrat and the Staenderat have approved the motion that Post Finance has to cater for Swiss living abroad to open bank accounts in Switzerland for them. We will keep you posted about further developments!

Happy reading,
Gisela Piercey



GISELA PIERCEY,
EDITOR SWISS REVIEW
SOUTHERN AFRICA

Roger Federer Foundation started new teacher initiative in South Africa

In Limpopo Province in South Africa, the performance of children at primary school level is low. One important reason for this is the lack of competence among teachers. Therefore the Roger Federer Foundation started a new teacher training and supervision initiative with the purpose to improve primary school Mathematics and language outcomes Grade 1-3 schools, by improving curriculum delivery in the classroom and at school leadership level within a sustainable framework.

In November 2014, a four year program with Molteno was launched to improve primary school Mathematics and Literacy outcomes in Primary Schools at Grade 1-3 in Limpopo Province. The goal is to increase the

performance of teaching in 161 schools by improving curriculum delivery in the classroom and at school leadership level within a sustainable framework. The program has a total budget of CHF 1,138,400 and end December 2018. Project staff will work in collaboration with school administration, provincial officials in order to reach sustainability of the quality. The goals are:

- 41'000 learners will benefit from the higher quality of education in their classes and will have a better performance
- 624 educators will obtain high levels of pedagogical knowledge and high levels of maths and home language content knowledge
- 624 educators will become able to better interpret and use data

from ANA and other assessments to establish learners' competencies and needs and use the data to plan and modify their teaching and assessment strategies.

- 161 primary schools will apply an effective culture of communities of practice for their teachers
- District facilitators are knowledgeable and capacitated enough through coaching and training to support the project implementation plan and sustain the interventions well after the project has ended
- All schools will have effective and efficient school governing bodies in place in order to reach a better school management level.

Roger Federer gets hands on in South Africa



Good news regarding the Swiss bank account situation

Both the Nationalrat and the Ständerat have approved the motion that Post Finance has to cater for Swiss living abroad to open bank accounts in Switzerland for such citizens.

This is a great achievement for the ASO, after much lobbying and tireless work by the members of the ASO Board. On 21st of March, the first sitting of the Auslandschweizerrat has taken place in Bern. Please note that communiqués, news and other important informations are passed on a regular basis to all the Swiss Clubs in Southern Africa. Should you wish to also get these inside infos, then please join the Swiss Club closest to your place of residence.

Your ASO representatives for Southern Africa,
Hans-Georg Bosch and Marcie Bischof.

Consular visits of the Regional Consular Centre Pretoria

After the visits to Harare and Luanda last year, the Regional Centre Pretoria (RCC) will be holding Consular meetings in Zambia, Mauritius and Durban this year.

Please take note of the following schedule:

Lusaka, Zambia -

22.04.2015

Quatre Bornes, Mauritius -

05.-06.05.2015

Durban, South Africa -

27.-28.05.2015

Swiss citizens will have the opportunity to apply for a Swiss passport and can also attend to any other consular business. Please use

this occasion to make direct contact with a representative of the RCC. Citizens living in Zimbabwe and Malawi and citizens living in the Eastern Cape might take the opportunity to join us in Lusaka or Durban respectively.

Please check if and for how long your current Swiss passport is valid. We intend to visit Quatre Bornes and Durban every two and Lusaka every three years.

Should you decide to take this opportunity and order a new passport, you will have to present yourself in person on one of the above mentioned days due to the biometric data that has to be registered. If you are not available during these days to meet us, you also have the possibility to attend to the formalities during your visits to Switzerland at any Swiss passport office. Please take note that most of the Swiss passport offices have a waiting list and it is, therefore, useful to plan the visit a few months ahead by informing the RCC about your intentions. The RCC has to contact the passport office before you can call there to make an appointment. Swiss citizens registered in Zambia, Mauritius, KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape will receive a letter with detailed information about the venue as well as the invitation to make an appointment (appointments are

compulsory) a few weeks before the visit. It is, therefore, important that you register your current e-mail address and/or your postal address to receive the information. Update your contacts by e-mail to: southernafrica@eda.admin.ch.

Citizens living in Zimbabwe and Malawi will not receive the information automatically. Please contact the RCC if you are interested to come and join us in Lusaka.

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DEADLINES SWISS REVIEW SOUTHERN AFRICA 2015

03/15 17/04/2015 Distribution 27/05/2015
04/15 27/07/2015 Distribution 02/09/2015

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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 Sat of the month for Lunch. Swiss Ladies meet every 4th Thu of the month for lunch.

Dear Members and Friends, Welcome to 2015 and may it be a fantastic, healthy and successful year for all. With the major headaches of the proverbial roof leaks now truly behind us, we look forward to a less stressful and much more enjoyable year ahead for our Club, Caterer and Members alike. So let us outline some of our plans for this year so that you can possibly diarise those dates as well.

We would like to start with a re-introduction of the Kid's Easter Fun day which we anticipate to hold on Easter Sunday the 5th of April. Many of you probably remember that this used to be a nice treat for the kids and parents alike and although these days it poses much more of a challenge in terms of possibly finding some sponsors, we are determined to make it happen, perhaps just on a slightly different concept. Wolfgang will provide a nice Breakfast Buffet for everybody whilst the kids will be "visited" by the Easter Bunny and can enjoy themselves on the Jumping Castle etc. However, this will only be possible and worthwhile if you are indeed here in JHB over the Easter Weekend and truly interested to bring your family with kids and grandkids around. We therefore urge you to get in touch with Debbie on 082 651 6152 as soon as possible to book your table, as we not only have just over a month now to make it happen, but we will also require a minimum number of at least 12 kids! 2 weeks later we will hopefully see all of you again at the AGM which is scheduled for FRIDAY 17th APRIL 2015 at 20h00. Please note that you will receive a final draft of the new constitution together with the current constitution within the next 3 to 4 weeks and we advise you to please peruse them in preparation for the AGM for deliberation. On Saturday the 18th July our Metzgete will be upon us again and we look forward to seeing you there. This year's Swiss National Day will be on Sunday the 2nd August and it goes without saying that with this being our prestige event of the year, we are looking forward to another great day in August.

The skittling season will start soon after the Skittling Club's AGM on the 27th February and they are on an active drive to promote this great traditional pastime and thus seeking new members to join them for regular and fun skittling competitions. The same goes with the Boccia / Pro Ticino Club who's AGM was held in January and they are already in full swing of their season of "fun and games". To end the year, our Christmas and year-end lunch is scheduled for Sunday the 6th December. We look forward to seeing you all soon, but certainly at the AGM on Friday 17th April 2015. Your Committee

Swiss Rifle Club Johannesburg: We shoot every 4th Sat of the month, from 9am. We normally shoot two different programs. This is done with Swiss rifles, provided by the club. Visit our Facebook site or call Daniel on 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 Facebook group: Swiss Club Alpina

We had our AGM on 20th February and the board is now constituted as follows: President – Hans-Georg Bosch; Vice President – Lisa von Moricz; Secretary – Biffy von Rooyen; Treasurer – Edit Steyn, assisted by Margrit Müller; Beisitzer: Brigitte Krass de Krassnokutski, Ursula Scheidegger (co-opted), Isabelle Ringel; Auditors: Claudia Thomas and Sonja Bosch. During the opening of the AGM we paid our respects to the two Honorary Members, Hanni and Ruedi Grossenbacher, who passed away during 2014. And also to Gabor von Moricz, our Vice President, who will be sorely missed. Two new honorary members were elected, namely the currently serving Ambassador Christian Meuwly and his predecessor Ruodlf Bärffuss. Both were honoured for their extensive work which they did for the benefit of Swiss citizens in SA in General and also for their involvement for the Club. Rudolf Bärffuss in particular also for his tireless engagement during the World Cup 2010. Our next event will be the Fondue Evening during June. Please email swissclub.pta@hbosch.com

SWISS CLUB IN CAPE TOWN: Swiss Social&Sports Club, Bill Peters Road, Green Point, www.swissclub.co.za . PRESIDENT : Stefan Pflocks, stefanp@execsonthemove.co.za T 021 715 2703, C 082 920 9351. VICE PRESIDENT: Nicky Rodrigues nicky.rodrigues@za.sabmiller.com T 021 658 7276, C 072 218 5759. SECRETARY: Marcie Bischof mwabischof@telkomsa.net. T 021 554 0176, C 082 925 2280

The club remains open every Wed and Thu for dinner. If you are not on the data base to receive the "newsflash" please contact the club at catering@swissclub.co.za or on

0214348405. Active sub-sections: Rifle Club, Cycling Club & Tennis Club. The ladies meet monthly – last Wed. Please contact info@swissclub.co.za or André Häberli, Membership & Advertising, Cell 076 933 03 04. Newsletter for regular updates: www.swissclub.co.za **SWISS CLUB NATAL:** President Philippe Lanz C 082 4932673, T 031 765 1625, pl@swisscontact.co.za. Secretary Jolanda Wolf, C 082 696 5996.

SUN 17.5. Beach Breakfast Amanzimtoti. SUN 5.7. Creighton Aloe Festival (Train Ride). SAT 18.7. Cheese Fondue Evening, Ridley Park Bowling Club, Malvern. SUN 2.8. Swiss National Day. SUN 6.9. Guided Walk in the Durban Botanical Gardens with lunch. SUN 11.10. Durban Green Corridor Guided Nature Trail / Visit to Umgeni River Bird Park and Lunch. OCTOBER: Baynesfield Estate Country Fair. SUN 1.11. Kloof-to-Inchanga Umgeni Steam Train Ride. SUN 6.12. Year End Function at Krantzklouf Interpretative Centre. SAT 23.1.16 Film evening. SUN 6.3.16 AGM. www.swissclubnatal.org.za

Dates of the Jass-Evenings: 2015: 10/4, 8/5, 12/6, 10/7, 14/8, 11/9, 9/10, 13/11, 11/12/. 2016: 8/1, 12/2, 11/3/2016.

SWISS CLUB PORT ELIZABETH: John Diener, President, PO Box 5608, Walmer 6065, T 0413792421, johndiener@bluewin.ch; comm.member Mark Krebs C 0823281098, T w 0413671422; Yvonne Bruehwiler, secretary, C 0834408130 **SWISS CLUB EAST LONDON:** c/o Christine and Paul Stiffler, T 0437483542, C 0837008846, C 0832874324, christinestiffler@telkomsa.net

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