

# Regional news : Southern Africa

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# REGIONAL NEWS SOUTHERN AFRICA

## Editorial



Dear readers,  
Imagine having represented the Swiss living in Southern Africa for 35 years! ASR delegate Peter Mueller has done just that and spent half of his life passionately fighting for the rights of the Swiss in this part of the world and networking with the Swiss authorities. After 35 years it is time to hand over the task to a successor.

Peter has contributed a lot to the Swiss Review magazine and it has been a real privilege to work with him for the past six years. He has been the voice of the Swiss living in Southern Africa and I wish him all the very best for his future!

GISELA PIERCEY  
Editor Swiss Review Southern Africa

## First Swiss solar park in South Africa

**Switzerland has set an example of household energy efficiency in its ambassadorial residence in the city of Pretoria/ Tshwane, South Africa. The residence was recently fitted with solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and low-consumption light bulbs and appliances, as well as solar geysers.**

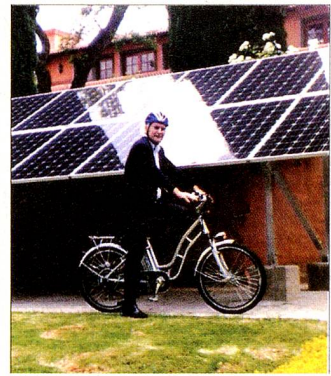
As far as we are aware, it is the first Swiss residence in Africa (and possibly the world) to achieve this leap to reduce the carbon footprint – even though the initial consideration was for facing the increasingly frequent power cuts from the public grid, and alleviating the electricity bill with a view to the rapidly increasing rates.

The initiative is in line with one of Switzerland's priorities in its cooperation with South Africa, which is to promote the mitigation of climate-affecting factors: the

Swiss Development Cooperation global programme on Climate Change, the State Secretariat for Economy's (SECO) country projects, and the Swiss South African Joint Research Programme, with its newly introduced focus on green&clean technologies, all lean toward this same goal.

The lovely rose bushes in the lower part of the garden were transplanted to make way for the thirty north facing PV panels, covering a surface area of 50 m<sup>2</sup>. Perfectly angled and fully exposed to the sun, a peak 44 kWh was generated on 30 October 2012 at which the minimum daylight temperature was 19 degrees Celsius and the maximum was 26 degrees Celsius. The energy generated on that spring daytime was sufficient to power the essential requirements of the residence for 24 hours, while loading batteries guaranteeing a reserve of eight to ten hours should the next day be less sunny.

All the improvements made will allow for a 30% reduction in electricity use. With an estimated average of at least 1000 solar-generated kWh a month, the residence will have more than halved its annual consumption from the grid – apart from being blackout-proof. If this were not enough, the Swiss Ambassador to South Africa often uses his electric "Zebike" to cycle to work, unlike 99.9% of South Africans who use private vehicles and public transport.



Ambassador Christian Meuwly travels to work on his electric Zebike.

With a population size of some 51.8 million people, South Africa is one of the world's largest users of coal-driven energy. In contrast, Switzerland comes in at number three in the Forbes list of top energy efficient countries, after Japan and Denmark.

Although the Swiss residence cannot transfer excess power to the grid (yet), Swiss solar parks will soon be part of the sources of renewable energy in South Africa: it was announced in December that ABB has been commissioned to install two PV power stations with capacities of 33 and 31 Megawatts, which should be operational by the end of 2013. The orders placed with the Swiss engineering company are the first within the extensive programme of investment that will make

South Africa less dependent on fossil energy sources.

## About the Author

Dr Janice Golding is a South African who works for Swiss Economic Cooperation (SECO) at the Embassy of Switzerland in Pretoria.

*There is a time to come, and a time to go*

**Peter Mueller has represented Southern Africa for 35 years, and says goodbye now.**

As you know from previous issues of the Swiss Review, a new term of Auslandschweizerrat (ASR) representation begins at the end of August 2013 for the next four years. From our appeal for possible successors to Rolf Schudel (nominated by the Swiss Club Johannesburg) and Peter Müller (nominated by the Swiss Club Cape Town), we were pleased to receive considerable feedback, as a result of which, the undersigned has decided not to make himself available for re-election for a further term. It has always been the undersigned's philosophy and contention that there is a time in life and particularly in political life to come and, even more importantly, a time to go.

It is extremely pleasing to note that there appears to be interest in representing the 9'000 Swiss Abroad in Southern Africa. The undersigned, while still having the honour to represent you until August 2013, wishes these new delegates a successful term of office, and is obviously available for possible advice and consultation should this be required.

The undersigned attended his first Auslandschweizer Congress in Einsiedeln in

August 1978 some 35 years ago. At that stage the undersigned was not a delegate, but as the President of the Swiss Club Cape Town, he felt it important to personally cover what this political platform created by the Auslandschweizer-organisation (ASO) together with the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs (EDA) could mean to Swiss Abroad particularly those in Southern Africa. That experience was extremely positive, and he realised that needs, wants and aspirations of Swiss Abroad in Southern Africa were not hugely different from those of Swiss Abroad worldwide. While largely the topics of the various Congresses were not materially important to the Swiss in Southern Africa, the importance of international networking, and particularly networking with Bernese-officials, was not to be underestimated.

During the 35 years since then, the undersigned has tried to attend an ASR Meeting and/or Congress whenever possible. For the past 20 years, he has enjoyed the privilege of representing the Swiss in Southern Africa initially as alternate delegate and during the past decade as full delegate.

Southern Africa has been privileged to have had a host of exceptional delegates: Pio Eggstein; Francois Jeannerat and Rolf Schudel (nominated by the Swiss Club Johannesburg) and Hans Strebel, Joe Giezendanner and Peter Brunnschweiler (nominated by the Swiss Club Cape Town). The undersigned was privileged to know and work closely with these gentlemen in the interests of the Swiss in Southern Africa.

With Rolf Schudel's mid-term resignation a year ago, it is possibly an appropriate time for the undersigned to also hand over the baton.

Indeed, in politics there is a time to come and there is a time to go!

PETER MULLER  
sargro@bluewin.ch

### *A summary of the last ASR meeting*

A report of the ASR meeting and congress in Lausanne from last August. The well-attended meeting was opened by the ASR President Jacques-Simon Egly who greeted the guests from far and wide. President Egly delivered his comprehensive presidential address, emphasising particularly:

- The proposed law on Swiss Abroad (Auslandschweizergesetz)
- Electronic voting and its development (Vote électronique)
- 50 year anniversary of AJAS (Student and Youth Service)
- Network of consular representation.

Regarding the law on Auslandschweizer, initiator Ständerat Filippo Lombardi, who is also a member of the ASR, reported on the progress of this matter. He is the President of a parliamentary subcommittee dealing with the formulation of the proposed law. By January 2013, the proposed law should be ready for discussion by both the National- and the Ständerat Chambers in Parliament. The aim would be for this draft to be enacted in law during 2015. The most important aims are:

1. The consolidation of all Auslandschweizer interests in one department

2. The elimination of discrimination of Auslandschweizer
3. The furtherance of mobility of Auslandschweizer.

At the same time, this should all be achieved without turning ASO or the ASR into agencies of the state.

Regarding electronic voting, Mrs Perriard from the Confederation Chancellery reviewed the status of this very important matter. There are still a number of problems to be solved regarding the insuring of voting secrecy, but it is hoped to solve these within the next year or two to enable practically universal electronic voting by Auslandschweizer by 2015/16.

AJAS, which was initially a separate agency, but has been housed and run by ASO during the past 20 years or so, has a proud record of assisting young Auslandschweizer to study and/or do research in Switzerland. We urge all young Auslandschweizer who are interested in furthering their education, to contact AJAS in Bern to investigate their possibilities.

The network of Swiss consular representation worldwide is being reorganised and it is for this reason that the Pretoria and Cape Town consular offices now represent and service Swiss interests in some 10 Southern African countries. This network is further assisted by the appointment of Honorary Swiss Consuls in appropriate locations.

A lengthy debate was held regarding the stance by Swiss banks as regards Auslandschweizer holdings. It would appear that the Swiss banks, with their unjustified and

often excessive charges, are not keen to keep Auslandschweizer holdings in their banks. The Swiss Abroad in the USA are particularly affected, but the undersigned has also received many complaints from Swiss in Southern Africa. This matter is receiving constant attention from the ASR, but in the light of the constant pressure being brought by countries such as the USA and certain EU countries, against the Swiss banking industry, it is not easy to achieve much progress.

The election of a new ASR council for the period 2013-2017 was discussed at great length. Francois Jeannerat has been appointed as the monitor for the election in Southern Africa.

The next session of the ASR will be held in Bern on Saturday 16th March. The next summer session including Congress will be held from Friday 16th to Sunday 18th August in Davos. The undersigned encourages as many Auslandschweizer from Southern Africa as possible to attend and participate.

PETER MULLER  
sargro@bluewin.ch



Der Auslandschweizererrat (ASR) setzt sich aus Vertretern der Schweizer Gemeinschaften im Ausland sowie aus Inlandschweizern zusammen. Als von den Behörden anerkanntes Sprachrohr der Fünften Schweiz vertritt der ASR die Interessen unserer Landsleute im Ausland und nimmt zu politischen Fragen Stellung, die für diese von Belang sind.

Für die Amtsperiode 2013-2017 steht die Neuwahl der Ratsmitglieder bevor, wie in der Schweizer Revue Oktober 2012 ausgeschrieben. Gewählt wird in den Schweizer Vereinen. Südafrika hat Anrecht auf 2 Vertreter im ASR.

Die Schweizer Vereine in Südafrika wählen im ersten Halbjahr 2013 anlässlich ihrer Generalversammlungen. Wahlberechtigt sind die folgenden 9 Vereine, die der Auslandschweizer Organisation (ASO) in Bern angeschlossen sind: Swiss Social and Sportsclub und Swiss Rifle Club in Cape Town, Swiss Club Natal in Durban, Swiss Society Helvetia, Swiss Rifle Club und Swiss Choir in Johannesburg, Swiss Club Far North in Makhado (früher Louis Trichard), Swiss Club Eastern Cape in Port Elizabeth und Swiss Society Alpina in Pretoria.

Bis zum 28. Februar 2013 können sich Schweizerinnen und Schweizer bei ihrem Schweizerverein, bei dem sie Mitglied sind, als Kandidat für den Auslandschweizererrat anmelden. Sie müssen Deutsch oder Französisch sprechen und zweimal jährlich an den Sitzungen des ASR in der Schweiz teilnehmen.

Die neugewählten Ratsmitglieder treffen sich zum ersten Mal zum Auslandschweizerkongress in Davos vom 16.-18. August 2013. Die 700'000 im Ausland lebenden Schweizerinnen und Schweizer verdienen es,

in Bundesbern und in der Schweiz durch engagierte Delegierte vertreten zu werden.

Weitere Angaben befinden sich unter [www.swisscommunity.org.](http://www.swisscommunity.org.), [www.aso.ch](http://www.aso.ch), [www.wahl2013.ch](http://www.wahl2013.ch) und [www.revue.ch](http://www.revue.ch)

FRANÇOIS JEANNERAT  
Wahlkoordinator francois.jeannerat@bluewin.ch

### *Südafrika zum ersten Mal an der Küchenschlacht*

### **Schweizerische Frau von Österreichischem Hotelier in Südafrika gewinnt die Küchenschlacht im Deutschen Fernsehen.**

Susanne Peterseil, eine gebürtige Schweizerin und Ehefrau von Werner Peterseil, einem oberösterreichischen Hotelbesitzer, reiste von Port Elizabeth in Südafrika nach Hamburg, um am 8. Oktober 2012 an der Küchenschlacht anzutreten und war selbst überrascht als sie gewann! Eigentlich wollte Susanne einfach mal nur mit dabei sein und dafür nahm sie die Reise um die halbe Welt gerne auf sich.

Susanne ist eine engagierte Mutter von zwei Kindern (Michael 13 Jahre und Jamie 8 Jahre) in deren Schule sie täglich aktiv mitarbeitet und freut sich deshalb immer besonders, nachmittags zur Entspannung über den Deukom-Satelliten die Küchenschlacht im ZDF zu schauen. Sie bewarb sich im März dieses Jahres bei den Fernsehmachern und, unterstützt von ihrem Mann,

konnte sie sich im Oktober ihren Traum erfüllen.

Bewaffnet mit einer Mischung von schweizerisch-südafrikanischen Rezepten machte sie sich auf den Weg nach Hamburg und wurde dort vor Ort von ihrer Schwiegermutter enthusiastisch unterstützt. Susanne, selbst überrascht über ihr Weiterkommen in der Sendung, freute sich riesig, im Finale von Sternekoch Johann Lafer antreten zu dürfen. "Dabei sein ist alles!" war ihr Motto während der ganzen Woche. Sie sagt, die Teilnahme an der Sendung machte ihr unheimlich viel Spass und auch ein Unfall in der vierten Sendung (ihr Dessert stürzte auf den Boden) konnte der Freude nichts abhaben. Zwar hätte sie einen Sieg nie erwartet, aber nun freut sie sich besonders auf eine baldige Rückkehr nach Hamburg zur Sendung „Lafer, Lichter, Lecker“. Diesmal wird sie von ihrem Mann begleitet werden.

Werner ist besonders stolz auf seine Frau, denn Gastronomie liegt ihm im Blut, zumal er vor 15 Jahren in Port Elizabeth an der Küste Südafrikas sein eigenes Vier-Sterne-Hotel eröffnet hat. Das Paxton Hotel ist ein vielfach ausgezeichnetes Hotel für Geschäftsleute und Touristen zugleich.



Susanne Peterseil gewann die Kuechenschlacht des ZDF.

### *Swiss Club Info*

#### **JOHANNESBURG:**

Swiss Society Helvetia, 31 Moerdyk Ave, Vorna Valley, Midrand, Chairman: Mario Valli, 082 451 8040; office: Debora Lanz, T/F 0118053039, C 0826516152, [office@swissclubjhb.co.za](mailto:office@swissclubjhb.co.za), [www.swissclubjhb.co.za](http://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 082 561 0063, [www.dining-out.co.za](http://www.dining-out.co.za) «The Courier»

#### 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: Swiss Rifle Club JHB shoots every 4th Saturday starting at 09h00, on 23/02 & 23/03. The majority of our members are Swiss, therefore it also doubles as a social gathering. Swiss Rifles and ammunition are provided by the club and the day ends with a bring and braai. If you need more info e-mail to: [srjsa@gmail.com](mailto:srjsa@gmail.com) or call Daniel Wyser 082-5699146.

#### **PRETORIA:**

Swiss Society Alpina, Hans-Georg Bosch, President, T 0123478310, C 0825510222, [swissclub.pta@hbosch.com](mailto:swissclub.pta@hbosch.com), Biffy van Rooyen, Secretary  
Facebook group: Swiss Club Alpina

#### **CAPE TOWN:**

Swiss Social & Sports Club, Bill Peters Road, Green Point, [www.swissclub.co.za](http://www.swissclub.co.za).  
PRESIDENT: Stefan Pflocks, [stefanp@execsonthemove.co.za](mailto:stefanp@execsonthemove.co.za)

## IMPRESSUM

### **Delegates of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad for**

#### **Southern Africa: Peter Müller**

T +41 62 893 2906, F +41 62 893 2907, [sargro@bluewin.ch](mailto:sargro@bluewin.ch), P.O.Box 123, CH-5103 Wildegg

**Editor of Swiss Review Southern Africa:** Gisela Piercey, P.O. Box 408, Kenton-on-Sea 6191, South Africa, Phone 0466482632 Fax 0866020489, [gisela@africantwisttravel.com](mailto:gisela@africantwisttravel.com).  
Please make a note of all the Southern African Regional issues in 2013:

Number	Deadline Date	Date of distribution	Number	Deadline Date	Date of distribution
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03/2013	29.04.2013	05.06.2013			

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**VICE PRESIDENT:** Nicky Rodrigues  
 nicky.rodrigues@za.sabmiller.com  
 T 021 658 7276, C 072 218 5759  
**SECRETARY:** Marcie Bischof  
 mwbischof@telkomsa.net  
 T 021 554 0176, C 082 925 2280

The club remains open every Wednesday and Thursday evening for dinner. If you are not on the data base to receive the "catering newsflash" please contact the club at catering@swissclub.co.za or on +27 21 4348405.

Active sub-sections are the Rifle Club, Cycling Club & Tennis Club. The ladies continue to meet monthly – last Wednesday of every month. For more information on the above sub-sections, please contact info@swissclub.co.za or André Häberli, Membership & Advertising, Phone +27 (0)21 551 48 98, Skype andre.haberli, Fax +27 (0)86 532 80 02, Cell +27 (0)76 933 03 04

Our newsletter is distributed via email and postage (as per request), but regular updates can be obtained on our website at www.swissclub.co.za

**NATAL:**

Hanspeter Graber,  
 T/F 031 568 2457,

C 083 262 6107, hansg@saol.com;  
 Philippe Lanz, Secretary, pl@swisscontact.co.za, C 082 4932673

**JASS EVENINGS:** Westville Country Club, Link Rd, Westville (first road on the left when travelling from the Pavilion exit towards West-ville). As before the Jass evening takes place every second Friday evening of the month 18.00 for dinner.19.00 start Jassen: 8/2, 8/3, 12/4, 10/5, 14/6, 12/7, 16/8, 13/9, 11/10, 8/11, 13/12/2013 (prize jassen). **TARGET SHOOTING:** Dave Nicol Shooting Range, Nottingham Road, KZN Midland starting at 9h00: 23/2, 23/3, 27/4, 25/5, 22/6, 27/7, 24/8, 28/9, 26/10, 23/11/2012.

**OTHER EVENTS:** Saturday 16/2/2013 18h00 Culture Evening (Swiss Film Abend), Sunday 10/3/2013 10h30 AGM.

**PORT ELIZABETH:**

John Diener, President,  
 PO Box 5608, Walmer 6065,  
 T 0413792421, the\_dieners@bluewin.ch; comm.member Mark Krebs C 0823281098, T w 0413671422  
 Yvonne Bruehwiler, secretary,  
 C 0834408130  
 The Fondue Party was a great

success. More than 40 members came along and enjoyed a delicious Fondue. Verena, with the help of other members prepared a Fondue which could not have been better in Switzerland. It has become a custom that "meine Wenigkeit" (John Diener) plays some sing along songs with my "Tenorhorn", which everybody seems to enjoy. All in all it was a lovely evening and a good opportunity to catch up with the latest news. A big thanks to Ella and Armin, to once again be our splendid hosts. The good attendance at the AGM; the First of August and the Fondue Plausch this year indicates that members are keen to attend these functions. All the more reason to organize a few more this year. This is the new years resolution of the committee.

**EAST LONDON:**

c/o Christine and Paul Stiffler,  
 T 0437483542, C 0837008846,  
 C 0832874324, christinestiffler@telkomsa.net

**FAR NORTH:**

Michael Holford  
 Contact No. C: +27 83 229 3787  
 Postal Add: P.Bag X2465 Louis  
 Trichardt 0920, Secretary: Suzanne

Holford-Salchli Suzanne.holford@gmail.com

**NAMIBIA:**

Peter Hess, President,  
 T+26461252943,  
 C+264811246890, e-mail : phess@iafrica.com.na,  
 Kurt Neuenschwander,  
 Vice President  
 C +26811279388

**SWAZILAND:**

Ruedi Hofer, Calabash Rest.,  
 T (h) +2684161095, T (w) +2684161187,  
 C +2686028545,  
 calabash@swazi.net

**ZIMBABWE:**

Oscar Rothen, 4 Blue Haze Lane,  
 Umwinsidale, Harare (Physical)  
 P.O. Box CH 837 Chisipite,  
 Harare. C +263772241537,  
 H +2634861702,  
 lorthen@zol.co.za

**MAURITIUS:**

Club Suisse de Maurice,  
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