

Newsletters

Message from the President

A new chapter

Dear members, sponsors and fellow citizen,

I'm very pleased to report that your new SAS committee, which was voted in at the AGM in March, is in full swing. Well trained by our predecessors, we've overcome the few teething problems, and now have an amazingly skilled and enthusiastic team ready to start the new chapter in the SAS history. The atmosphere during our meetings is literally buzzing.

As the number of Swiss nationals moving to Singapore is continuously rising¹, we, at the SAS, must continue to reach out to all Swiss newcomers, be it to help them settle in, integrate into a welcoming Swiss community in their new home country or to offer a variety of activities for them to discover life in Singapore and meet new faces. Newcomers seeking new acquaintances, new business relations; meaning new opportunities for all of us, new and not so new to Singapore.

On the events side, we introduced last month the **"My Singapore"** walks. The idea behind this concept is to explore a new "corner" of Singapore in a different way. Volunteer guides have the liberty of showing you their favourite neighbourhood and/or places of interest. We launched this event with a very interesting tour to the Lian Shan Shuang Lin Monastery, followed by a walk along Balestier Road and visits to traditional shop houses, guided by one of our members, Karin Vo Van. So, who would like to share his/her experience of Singapore We are looking for volunteers! I also want to take this opportunity to remind you of our monthly events that are always a success such as the Coffee mornings, Jass tournaments and Book Group. I feel very confident that this year's events' calendar will have something for everyone! However, if you do have any suggestions, comments or would like to play an active part in organizing an event, please do contact one of our Events' Coordinators.

Last but not least, I would like to extend a special thank you to our sponsors and members for their continuing support.

I welcome any and all comments and suggestions via email at Claire.lecomte@swiss-sg.org

Danke, Merci, Grazie, Engraziel,
Claire Lecomte, President

¹ <http://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home/rep/asia/vsgp/embsin/consu/livsgp/comm.html> and various other more recent sources

Event Report

SAS Golf Outing to Tering Bay Golf Club, Batam

On Saturday morning the Tanah Merah Ferry terminal was quite busy with all the golfers, gamblers and weekenders getting ready for the 8am ferry to Batam. A representative of the Golf club was at the Batam Ferry desk, had our tickets and Indonesian Immigration card ready. And before 8am we were in Indonesia. While the gamblers transferred to another boat to reach their casino on open sea, we proceeded to a counter where they took our passports and immigration forms and the USD10 that we had put with it, whereupon we were ushered through, to the bus.

Less than 30 minutes, Dac, who was in charge of this outing, had equipped us with a golf glove for our left hand and the buggies were taking us to the green for the players, ready to go for their 18 holes or to the exercise stand for those who had never played before. The weather was ideal. Three hours of practice were of course not quite sufficient to reach the entry level, but exactly what was needed to understand what golf is really about. A dream had become true. Since there were not too many players, it was just time to catch up with Jose Luis and Dac at the 18th hole for the picture of the winning team. Lunch and coffee on the terrace completed the great outing.

by Eric Fiechter, March 2014



Mother's Day Cake Decoration

For this Mother's Day, we organized for the first time a Cake Decoration Event. Children came along with their dads to "Stirling Highway café" to decorate their own freshly baked Strawberry Shortcakes. There were lots of different decoration material available, nicely grouped and organized in various colourful containers, on the long table, and each child decorated his/her own cake or some of the siblings shared one cake. They were all so dedicated to decorate the cake with lots of love for their Mums, very well supported by their Dads. And they also liked to eat part of the decoration, one heart was put on the cake, the next one went into the mouth... Although it was the Vesak Day-Weekend, altogether 19 children decorated 17 beautiful cakes in two different sessions. Due to the success of this event and the wonderful feedback we received, we plan to do it on a yearly basis. We hope to see a lot of happy children faces again next year. In the meantime, we plan to organize some other events for children in the art & craft area. You will get the information/invitations in due time. By Susanne Cifuentes



5 minutes with... Verena Jaeggi

If you regularly follow the SAS guided walks through Singapore, you might be acquainted with one of our dedicated guides, Verena Jaeggi.

Although the plan was to stay for two years in Singapore, Verena and her husband have been living here for six and now it is time to go back to Switzerland. This was a last nice occasion to talk to her over a cup of tea, before she definitely leaves the “Garden City”.

What is Singapore to you?

A small spot on the map, but with such diversity. So many colours, smells, faces and lots of excitements.

What is your “best kept secret” that you would like to share with SAS members?

Joo Chiat area; “but it is not a “best kept secret” anymore, yet it was still one when I arrived six years ago” [she says smiling]. One of her nicest experiences was her visit during the Ramadan period. A big market between Paya Lebar MRT and Geylang Serail Market is set on this occasion. Stalls selling clothes, shoes, jewellery, fabric, and of course food specialities. The market is best experienced before sunset, when many people are sitting at tables or in the mosque, patiently waiting to get the permission from the Iman to break the fast.

Tiong Bahru is also among one of Verena’s favourite areas as she recalls walking through the streets and being amazed by the local life and small businesses.

However, over the years, she has witnessed such a rapid development in the area. She wonders how long locals will be able to cope with it. She recalls “some years ago, you wouldn’t see a Caucasian face there”. Nowadays, rents rise to such a point that local shops can’t afford it to stay. These are quickly replaced by trendy restaurants and bars, bringing a very new clientele to the streets.

What is for you the main argument if you were to convince somebody to come to Singapore?

In such a small place, so many different faces and religions, so much culture, architecture that you wouldn’t find anywhere else. And the climate, someone who likes warmth, colours and light, can only be happy in Singapore.

However, Singapore’s unique model of endless progress, slowly reaches its limits. The endless search for efficiency and success might be going too far...

Do you apprehend your return to Switzerland?

“Yes, I would have liked to stay longer. Back to Switzerland, it will be a new life.”

Verena and her husband plan to travel back to Asia from November onwards, for half of a year to discover new places and rediscover their favourite spots.

Thank you Verena for your time and we wish you all the very best.

Interview: Murielle Henchoz, Singapore, 28 April 2014.

Latest news

New addition to the team

The SAS committee is delighted to welcome **Claudia Thomsen** as a new Events Coordinator. A graduate in Economics and Hotel Management, Claudia has had a brilliant career path for the last 15 years with Microsoft. She relocated with her husband and two children to Singapore in October 2012 and joined the SAS team in April 2014. Claudia also works for the Danish Supplementary School in Singapore.

Up Coming Events in June

Thursday, June 5 from 10am

[Coffee morning at Paul Takashimaya](#)

Thursday, June 12 from 7pm to 10.15pm

Fine Art and Wine Event in a delightful French restaurant

<http://www.swiss-sg.org/events/fine-art-and-wine/>

Tuesday, June 24 from 7.30pm

Jass at Wine Universe

<http://www.swiss-sg.org/events/jass-3/>

Thursday, June 26 from 7.30pm

Swiss Bar Network – location TBC

FULL DETAILS FOR ALL EVENTS ON OUR WEBSITE

Swiss Association of Singapore

C/o Embassy of Switzerland

1 Swiss Club Link

Singapore 288162

www.swiss-sg.org