

# Velosolex 50 years old

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## EMBASSY OF SWITZERLAND IN WELLINGTON

Following a number of departures and new arrivals at the Embassy, time has come to tell you again who is who and who is doing what at our country's Embassy.

### HERE IS THE LATEST SITUATION:

Head of Mission: With the recent departure of *Mr. THURNHEER*, this position is vacant at the moment.

**Mr. WALTER R. SIMMEN** is the Chargé d'Affaires and Deputy Head of Mission and handles relations with the New Zealand Government, with local authorities in New Zealand, the Tokelaus, Cook Islands, Niue, Fiji, Samoa and Tonga. He is also the Swiss consul for American Samoa. As Deputy Head of Mission Walter Simmen deals with trade enquiries and he is also in charge of relations with the universities, art, culture and the medias. At the Embassy since June 1995.

**Mr. FRANK SCHNEIDER** is Head of Chancery and deals specifically with AHV, social security, assistance to Swiss tourists and settlement in Switzerland, liaison with Swiss clubs. At the Embassy since November 1995.

**Mrs NADINE STUDER** is in charge of passports, registrations, citizenships, visas, matters concerning military duties, political rights and accounts. At the Embassy since August 1996.

**Mrs FRANÇOISE KILLIAS ZILLWEGER** is in charge of correspondence, Telex and Faxes, tourism, library and archives and contacts with schools. At the Embassy since September 1995

**Mrs LOUISE BEALE**, local secretary deals with correspondence, translations, telephone, appointments and also liaisons relevant to art and cultural projects. At the Embassy since April 1991.

**Mr IVAN EYRE**, local chauffeur also in charge of maintenance and repairs of all equipment at the Embassy and at the Ambassador's residence. At the Embassy since September 1993.

We sincerely thank Mr. Simmen for supplying us with the above information which will certainly interest many of our readers.

### NOTE TO SECRETARIES

Next issue of the Helvetia magazine: DECEMBER 1996. All contributions must be in by 15 November. Many thanks for your kind cooperation.

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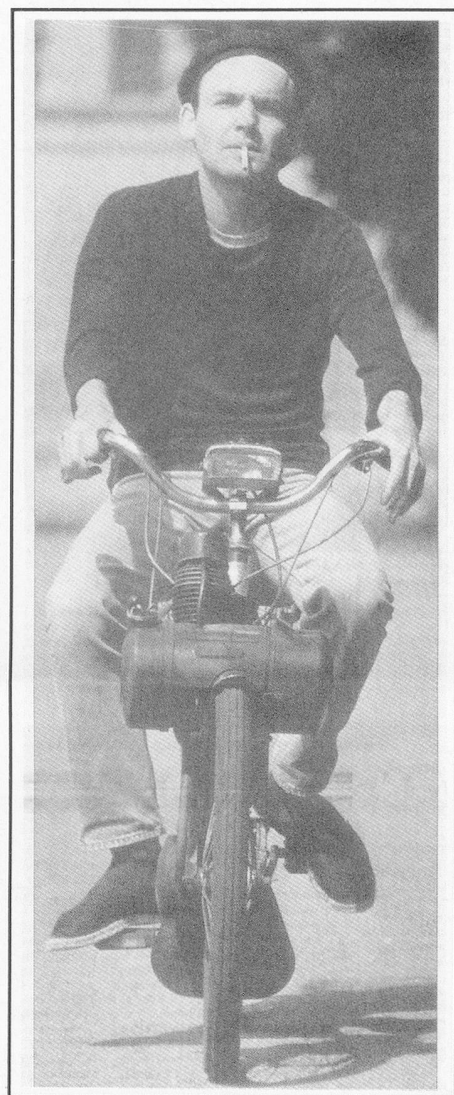
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### SWISS FIRMS PROVIDE MORE JOBS, BUT NOT IN SWITZERLAND

Altogether, the 50 biggest employers in Switzerland have created last year 22,000 new jobs in foreign countries (in 1994 it was 52,000 new jobs). At the same time, they reduced the number of working places in Switzerland by 8,000.

This trend has been going on now for several years and it is of course due to the high costs of living and high salaries in Switzerland compared with much lower wages and operating costs in foreign countries.

How about transferring a few businesses from Switzerland to New Zealand? There is plenty of space here and an abundance of clean, fresh rain water if we judge by the wettest winter we ever had.....



### VELOSOLEX 50 YEARS OLD

Most of you will probably remember this famous French invention, half bicycle, half motorbike, that was the rage all over Europe just after the 2nd World War.

The first Velosolex came off the assembly line near Paris in 1946 and in no time it became a way of life for over 5 million delighted owners who found in their Velosolex a chance to move around in the most economical way possible at a time when cars were either inexistent or far too expensive to purchase.

Powered by a small engine sitting on top of the front wheel, the Velosolex could move at a maximum speed of 30km per hour and, on steep hills, the engine often needed some welcome human pedal-power to master the climb.

After its glory years in the 1960's the Velosolex rapidly lost its appeal as people became more affluent and cars became more plentiful and cheaper. But strangely enough, the Velosolex is still alive. It has left its home near Paris and is now being manufactured in Hungary from where small numbers are still being exported to Switzerland and, not entirely surprisingly, back to its country of origin, France.



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