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CROSSING NEW ZEALAND BY SCOOTER TO FIGHT CANCER

It looks like a toy but **ROMAN BONT** is on his way to cross New Zealand from Cape Reinga to Bluff on a specially made scooter (*Trottinet*) to attract attention to children's cancer research.

This native of Switzerland, has already covered the whole of Northland and expects to arrive in Bluff by the end of January 1994. It is part of a second trip around the world to fight cancer.

Bont said he is not accepting research donations himself. He is asking those he meets to give to local research organisations. He is accepting donations for travel expenses, however. Often he sleeps in a tent he brings along. While he was travelling through Canada this year, he said, he was offered free lodging at a hotel used by British royalty.

Bont, who celebrated his 47th birthday last September, has a reason to fight cancer. He lost both parents to the disease. His dying mother's agony made an especially big impact on him, he said.

Bont's second world cancer trip began April 7 in Halifax, Canada. After logging 6,132 kilometers across Canada in four months and two days, the truck driver went to Sapporo to cross Japan to bring his campaign to the Pacific. By the time his campaign is over, he will have spent eight months away from home.

His girl friend, who stayed behind, has been very understanding, Bont said. She is concerned about children, making clothes for youngsters in the former Yugoslavia.

This is Bont's first trip by scooter. He was in Australia when he saw a German magazine article in 1988 about a campaign to collect signatures from famous people.

He began campaigning for children's cancer research that year in a truck nicknamed **MINI MACK**. He gathered signatures of famous people along the way.

In 1989 he campaigned in Japan, in 1990 in Canada and in 1991 in Europe. The truck is now at the Museum of Transportation Vehicles in Hanover, Germany.

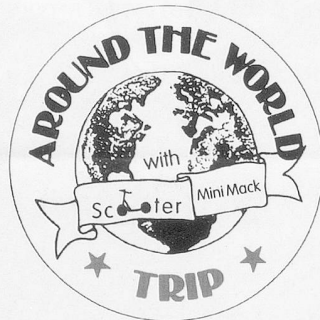
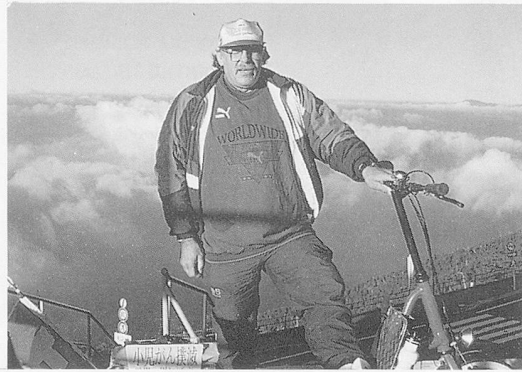
Next year the truck, autographed by famous people around the world, will be auctioned to raise money for children's cancer research. Bont hopes the buyer donates the truck back to the museum.

Germans started a Bont fan club, which they named **MINI MACK** after the truck.

Singers in Switzerland staged a charity concert that featured an original song, the Mini Mack Schottische. Proceeds went to the University Children's Hospital cancer research programme in Basle.

The address for donations direct to Switzerland is as follows:

**Krebskranke Kinder, Basler Kinderspital
Hämatologische Poliklinik, Basel
Basler Kantonalbank:
Sparheft No: 42-37.977-85 or
Postcheckkonto 40-61-4**



Ermöglicht durch **PUKY GmbH, Fahrzeugfabrik Wülfrath, Germany** und **M.G. Domian, am Langenseifen 61, 5900 Siegen, Germany**
President des **Mini-Mack Fan Clubs Europa**

ONE ON A SCOOTER TOOTING A HOOTER...

*(First paragraphs of front page article out of the **Northland Age**, Kaitiaki, 16 November 1993)*

People have run, walked, pedalled and even on one memorable occasion baggiped their way from Cape Reinga to Bluff for all manner of worthy causes, but no cause is better or mode of travel more unusual than that of Roman Bont, even if he isn't precisely following Fred Dagg's version of We Three Kings.

Roman, who hails from Switzerland, set off from Cape Reinga last Wednesday aboard a scooter, not quite the toy many children are familiar with but apart from a refinement or two pretty well identical to the foot-powered two-weehler which for many Kiwi kids is the forerunner to a tricycle.

He knows what he is doing though, having already crossed Canada and toured Japan on the same two wheels, for a total distance, as of Friday morning while sheltering from persistent showers at Motutangi, of 9,672 kilometers, all to raise awareness of child cancer.

The New Zealand journey, which he hopes to complete in between 57 and 63 days, is just a warm-up for his major Southern Hemisphere effort in Australia, however, after which he intends heading north to more familiar territory in Portugal, Spain, France and perhaps Germany where he has a fan club.

Roman, a 48 year-old truck driver, emphasises that he is not collecting money for child cancer - that would be too dangerous, he says - but hopes his message strikes a chord with those he encounters, and invites those who share his concern to send a contribution to the **Child Cancer Foundation, P.O. Box 152, Auckland.**

Montag, 8. November 1993

Als ich von Japan kommend in Auckland am 2.11. morgens um 9.30 ankam und mich auf den Weg zu einem Campingplatz machte, sah mich eine Schweizerin und nahm mich einfach mit nach Hause zu ihrer Familie. **Barbara Bull**, ihr Name, half mir dann auch gleich Telephone und Faxe zu machen, was so viel einfacher war.

Nachdem ich die Schweizer Botschaft anruf hatte ich Telefonnummern von **Chris Hochuli** und **E.G.B. Electronics Services (Edi Brändli)**. Sie hatten alle Riesenspass und luden mich zur Fondue-party auf der Swiss-Alp ein. Sowa hatte ich bis jetzt auf meiner Reise bis jetzt 9867km, noch nie erlebt. Auch die Leute die ich getroffen hatte vom Schweizer Club in Auckland waren super.

Ja von **Futronics Services, Elisabeth & Roland Feuer**, erhielt ich sogar eine Telefonkarte und Finanzhilfe. Damit kann ich nun mit dem Bus nach Cape Reinga, dem Tourbegin, reisen und gratis Telephone machen. Es war wie Weihnachten. Wahnsinn, dieser Schweizer Club in Auckland!

Die Leute bei der Schweizer Botschaft in Wellington setzten alle Hebel in Bewegung so dass mein Anfang hier in New Zealand viel einfacher war als in anderen Ländern. Ich möchte allen einen Blumenstraus winden für ihre grosse Gastfreundschaft und Hilfe.

Mit vielen vielen Dank, Euer **Mini Mack, Roman Bont**

Auch noch recht vielen Dank an **Heinz Matysik** der mich mit dem Taxi auf den Bahnhof brachte, **Harry Oblak** von 3D für die Stickers meiner Neu Seeland Tour, dem **Hausi** von der **Swiss Butchery** und **Eveline & Franz** von der **Swiss Bakery, Patisserie & Café** für den finanziellen Zustup an meine Weiterreise nach Wellington.

PROVISIONAL TIME TABLE

Start of 2nd leg Auckland - Wellington on 22 or 23 November, 40-60km/day

Route	High Way	Days
Auckland - Hamilton	1	3-4
Hamilton - Te Kuiti	3	2-3
Te Kuiti - Wanganui	4	6-8
Wanganui - Sanson	3	1-2
Sanson - Wellington	1	5-6

3rd leg Picton - Bluff

Picton - Christchurch	1	10
Christchurch - Temuka	1	4-5
Temuka - Fairlie	79	2-3
Fairlie - Queenstown	8	8-9
Queenstown - Bluff	6	7-9