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News from the Embassy

Mobile unit on the road in New Zealand for biometric Swiss passports

After the huge success two years ago, the Embassy of Switzerland in Wellington is pleased to announce that it will once again have a mobile biometry unit in New Zealand. A consular officer of the Embassy will travel to Dunedin on 7 and 8 May 2015 and to Hamilton on 11, 12 and 13 May 2015.

Swiss citizens who wish to avail themselves of this opportunity should complete the online application form for a new Swiss identity document via the following website:

www.schweizerpass.ch. They should follow the procedure for Swiss nationals living abroad and must imperatively indicate under "remarks" (step 9 of the online application process) that they wish their biometric data to be recorded in Dunedin or in Hamilton.

For logistical reasons, applications for the mobile biometry unit will only be accepted until 20 April 2015.

Please note that only the applications of Swiss citizens duly registered with the Swiss Embassy in Wellington and whose civil/marital status is up-to-date can be processed.

Once the online application has been checked and approved, access to an online appointment calendar will be given to the applicant.

The passport fees must be paid with

a bank cheque or personal cheque at the time of the appointment. They are subject to exchange rate fluctuations and range from roughly 100 NZD for a children's passport to 250 NZD for combined passport/ID card for adults (see **www.eda.admin.ch/wellington** > Services > Passport and identity card > Fees for details).

Applications will be treated strictly on a first come, first served basis and the Embassy cannot guarantee all applicants will be able to get an appointment in case of high demand.

The Embassy would like to remind that biometric data can also be recorded all year long at its premises in Wellington, at a passport office in Switzerland or at any other Swiss representation abroad equipped with such a facility.

For more information on biometric passports, please visit our website (**www.eda.admin.ch/wellington** > Services > Passport and identity card).

A special phone line for all questions specifically related to the upcoming trip of the mobile unit in New Zealand is open Mondays to Thursdays from 10 to 12 a.m. at 04 815 95 17. Please note, however, that for practical and logistical reasons applications need to be filed online according to the procedure mentioned above.

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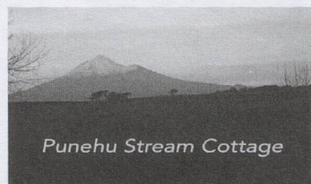
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