

CAMBRIDGE / LE QUESNOY

FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION

1 December 2015

Bonjour, Tena Koutou, Greetings!



Since our last newsletter quite a lot has happened.

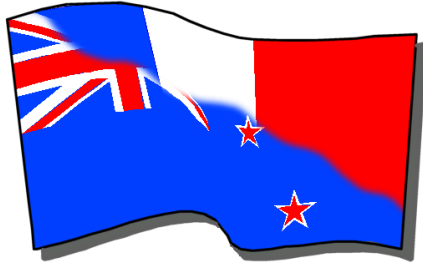
A French Village Lunch was held on 4th November at the Onyx Restaurant Café & Bar which was organised by Julie Epps and Grant Middlemiss, members of the Le Quesnoy Sister City Committee of the Cambridge Community Board. It was most enjoyable and a huge success. Forty five tickets were sold with a waiting list of people wishing to attend. Pip and Murray Feast entertained us through a highly entertaining interactive French journey. The food and wine were both magnificent. The street of Le Quesnoy Place (Cambridge) was well represented.

Le Quesnoy World War 1 Memorial Forest Park located in the vicinity of Whangamata was opened on 4th November; this is one of ten memorial forest park sites commemorating specific battles to acknowledge the 100th Anniversary of World War I established by Thames-Coromandel District Council. In attendance from Cambridge were Miriam and Brian Farrell, Alan Livingston, Steve Tritt and others.

Remembrance Sunday was commemorated by an Armistice Civic Service on Sunday 8th November. This year, for the first time, representatives of both the Turkish and Belgium Embassies attended along with over 200 other attendees. A pipe band marched through town preceding the ceremony. At the conclusion a light lunch was held with members of the Armistice Day Organising Committee and the Le Quesnoy Sister City Committee bringing food to support that supplied by caterers. A brief meeting was held by those members present of the Cambridge/Le Quesnoy Friendship Association where we were addressed by Herb Farrant, Trustee of the New Zealand Memorial Museum Trust who gave us all an update on the museum/hotel that is to be built in Le Quesnoy, if all goes to plan.

Two large banners have been purchased that can be used for any occasion that promotes the link between Le Quesnoy and Cambridge as Sister Cities. They were used at the **Armistice Civic Service** and at Lake Karapiro for the **"Armistice in Cambridge"** event that took place over the weekend of 7th-8th November. A Le Quesnoy display, compiled and hosted by Miriam and Brian Farrell, was also at the lake in the Don Rowland Centre.

"Heartlanders – New Zealanders of the Great War", the travelling exhibition hosted by the National Army Museum, visited Cambridge on 16 October and was the only stop in the Waikato due to our link with Le Quesnoy. Students of the Cambridge Primary school attended along with many others from the town and surrounds.



CAMBRIDGE / LE QUESNOY

F R I E N D S H I P A S S O C I A T I O N

I have been liaising with Hel  ne from Office de Tourisme Le Quesnoy. They have created an ‘‘app’’ for smartphones in French and English - you have to download ‘‘Baladavesnois’’ and it will give you some information on Le Quesnoy.

An electronic version of the pamphlet ‘‘The Cambridge Le Quesnoy Connection Inextricably Linked’’ has been forwarded to Hel  ne and newsletters will also be forwarded to the ‘‘Le Quesnoy New Zealand Association’’ in Le Quesnoy.

I have also had correspondence with Marie-Jos   Burlion, President of the Le Quesnoy New Zealand Association in Le Quesnoy and she alluded to the fact the a group may visit in February 2017 and asked that this be passed on. I will continue to liaise with both Hel  ne and Marie- Jos  , and together with the newsletters, will preserve this special relationship between our two towns.

Thank you all for your support over the past year. Since taking on the chairperson role I have learnt a great deal, which is still only a snippet. I am passionate about this special committee and all the positive things it represents.

Merry Christmas to you all - have a safe and festive holiday season, and we will see you in the New Year.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Pettit'.

Mike Pettit

Chair

027 632 0375

mike.pettit@waipadc.govt.nz

