

CAMBRIDGE / LE QUESNOY

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

2 June 2022
10823959

Chers amis,

This year didn't quite get off to the start we had hoped for, with Omicron meaning the cancellation of plans before we were even able to communicate them with you! Now that the situation is improving and we are able to host events again, we would love to catch up.

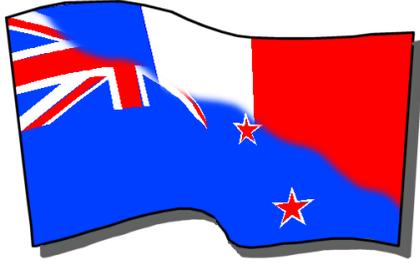
Upcoming events and plans:

- Le Quesnoy Lunch - Tuesday 14th June, 12noon at the Deli on the Corner, Cambridge.

We're keeping it casual, come along for a chat, and order whatever you like on the day. Please rsvp to heatherwelly@hotmail.com so we can let the café know how many people to expect.

- Bastille Day – Thursday 14th July:
 - Plans are underway for some fun family-friendly events in Cambridge such as French themed face paint and furry friend fashion competitions, a display at the museum and more. Details to come.
 - The Boatshed Karapiro is hosting a French Night, from 6pm, set menu \$60pp, bookings [HERE](#) mention you are with the Cambridge – Le Quesnoy Friendship Association so they can try to seat us together.
 - Que Bar French Bistro will be hosting their signature Bastille Day celebration slightly later on Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th July. Enjoy a classic French dinner paired with fabulous wines from all over France. You can book tables of 4-6, at \$140pp. Drop by, call 07 949 7699, or email contact@quebar.co.nz to book.
- Did you have a family member who fought in Le Quesnoy, France? If so we'd love to hear from you. After a successful meeting with the NZ Memorial Museum-Le Quesnoy Trust & NZSG a plan has been outlined to locate the names of 14,400 NZ soldiers who were present at Le Quesnoy between the dates of 23 October/1 November 1918 and 8 November 1918. This information will be used in the museum and visitor centre in Le Quesnoy for commemoration and informational purposes.

If you are able to assist please email [cijihug@gmail.com](mailto:cjihug@gmail.com) or heatherwelly@hotmail.com



CAMBRIDGE / LE QUESNOY

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

Other news:

- The postcards from Cambridge children sent to Le Quesnoy were well received, and they have replied. We are currently working with teachers on both sides to encourage a long-term connection.
- A small three-part ceremony was held in Cambridge at the start of April:

Part One: Mihi Whakatau and presentation of the Kākahu Maumahara to the RNZRSA President.

Part Two: The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between The Union Nationale des Combattants and RNZRSA to acknowledge both organisations' traditions, values and shared mission of supporting veterans and their families.

Part Three: The presentation of the Poppy Bowls to the Cambridge-Le Quesnoy Friendship Association and the French Embassy. The Poppy Bowl is intended to be sent to the NZ War Memorial Museum in Le Quesnoy.



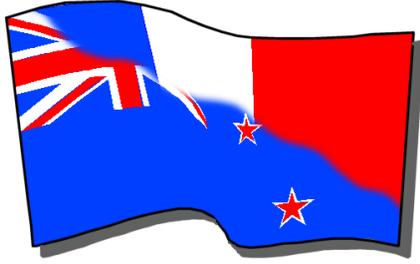
- It was wonderful to recently hear from Gerard Richon, President of Association Le Quesnoy Nouvelle-Zélande (newsletter attached). With the New Zealand War Memorial Museum potentially being at least partially opened in 2023 we are keeping an eye on developments and the opportunity for a delegation to visit Le Quesnoy. It is hoped that a delegation from Le Quesnoy will visit Cambridge/NZ in November 2023. So exciting times ahead!

I'll be in touch soon with more information about Bastille Day events, and a meeting date as I learn more about any potential delegation plans.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page for items of interest
<https://www.facebook.com/CambridgeLeQuesnoy>

À bientôt,

Alana MacKay
Cambridge Le Quesnoy Friendship Association
Cambridge Community Board
Alana.mackay@waipadc.govt.nz



CAMBRIDGE / LE QUESNOY

FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION



Dear Friends,

It has been two years since we were last in touch, which I sincerely regret. This was partly due, of course, to the COVID-19 pandemic and related disruptions: the lockdowns which we all found difficult, the mothballing of some of our activities in the second half of 2020 and almost all of 2021, and the postponement of our trip to New Zealand originally planned for November 2021. The understandable absence of visitors from New Zealand also had an impact, as that undoubtedly is a motivation for us to maintain regular relations with your country.

However, speaking in my role as President of the Le Quesnoy New Zealand Association, I regret that it has taken me this long to renew contact with our twin town and with the local friendship association.

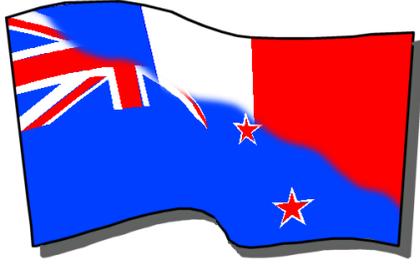
Nevertheless, we have followed the situation in New Zealand closely and noted with interest all the efforts made by your government and your fellow citizens to limit the consequences of the pandemic and the effectiveness of the choices made. Nothing is easy in this kind of situation, and we are well aware of this in France as we have now officially suffered 136,000 COVID-related deaths. This is a huge figure, even taking into account our current population of 67 million.

Richard Lummus of the Cambridge Brass Band has kept us up to date with news from Cambridge; he has been in regular correspondence with our secretary Jean-Philippe Froment since the Centenary commemorations.

In France, for the moment, things have improved considerably: the incidence rate has fallen, fewer people have been hospitalised and fewer are in intensive care. However, we are being advised to remain cautious, at least until spring.

Here in Le Quesnoy, the membership of our Association has remained stable overall. However, we have lost one of our founding members, Norbert Bailleux, who passed away in March 2021. Despite some health problems, Norbert was still very active. Many people in Cambridge knew him and he forged some close friendships in your country. He was one of the most enthusiastic participants in our first trip to New Zealand, and he remained a great admirer of NZ rugby and the All Blacks.

In September 2021, we were able to resume our traditional annual excursion to a place of remembrance: we went to Meaux in the suburbs of Paris, a town which has one of the largest museums in France dedicated to the First World War.



CAMBRIDGE / LE QUESNOY

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

In addition, the Association once again has a presence on the web, with a new Facebook page, in French and English, that provides information on our activities and projects. (For the English page search for Le Quesnoy New Zealand Association). We have also restarted our cycle of conferences, which are announced on our FB pages in the programme of events published by the municipality and in the local press. On October 8, 2021 we invited the writer and historian Pierre Commeine to talk to us about one of his latest books: "Léo Kyle, infirmier néo-zélandais", which describes the experiences of your soldiers from Gallipoli to Le Quesnoy. 35 people attended, who had all read the book, and the presentation was followed by a lively discussion. This is just one of the conferences held recently or planned for the coming months. I look forward to telling you about them in my next letter.

On March 21st of this year we were fortunate to be able to organise a one-day New Zealand Film Festival in Le Quesnoy in conjunction with Bernard Bories, a specialist in Antipodean cinema. There were three screenings: two reserved for intermediate and secondary school students, and one open to the general public in the evening. We chose to show Whale Rider and Bellbird, winner of the Jury Grand Prix at the 2021 Saint Tropez Antipodean Film Festival. We plan to repeat this initiative in the future, in order to promote New Zealand cinema and, more generally, its unique culture.

A word also about the future New Zealand War Memorial Museum in Le Quesnoy: work has resumed and the municipality hopes it will be opening - at least partially - in 2023; we will be following developments closely.

Finally, our trip to New Zealand remains an objective for 2023, in November (7th -23th). Antipodes Travel, the Dunedin agency that handled our trips in 2013 and 2017, has confirmed that restrictions will probably be lifted in 2022. We are confident this will be the case, and our members who have signed up for it are looking forward to discovering the delights of your country and making new friends.

Cambridge will of course be a key destination, we plan to spend several days in your city and hopefully will be able to further consolidate our ties of friendship.

I look forward to giving you more details soon.

With our warm regards,
For the Association Le Quesnoy Nouvelle-Zélande
Gérard Richon
President
kiwilequesnoy@gmail.com phone : [+33 6 32 47 69 57](tel:+33632476957)