

CAMBRIDGE / LE QUESNOY

FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION

15 May 2017
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Bonjour, Tena Koutou, Greetings!

Le Quesnoy Delegation Visit - Since our last newsletter, we have of course, warmly welcomed 26 delegates from our Sister City, Le Quesnoy. We were lucky enough to have them stay with us between 17th and 20th February where they were hosted by members of the Cambridge/Le Quesnoy Friendship Association and others in the community. A sincere thank you to all those who hosted our delegates, you definitely made their stay a warm and memorable one.

Their visit to Cambridge was part of a three week tour with many saying it was the highlight and others, that of the four or five times they had visited Cambridge, it was the most enjoyable visit they have had. A big thank you must go to the organising committee, our Cambridge Community Board Secretary, and all others involved including those leading the blessing of the site for the commemorative sculpture and owners of the wonderful private function venue where the informal dinner was held.

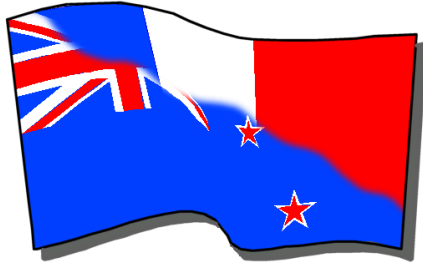
Some of the highlights of the visit were - the blessing of the site for the commemorative sculpture including the presence of Fred Graham the designer; the informal dinner at a private function centre set amongst amazing grounds complete with the accompaniment of the Cambridge Brass Band Quintet and the Cambridge Brass Band who also played at the formal lunch the following day hosted by our Mayor; a visit to the velodrome; the final farewell appropriately at St Andrew's Church and the involvement of students from Cambridge High School and Cambridge Primary School. As a gift we gave the delegation a copy of the book "ANZAC War Story and Poetry" written by Karina Fitch, a local resident. It was an uplifting and thoroughly enjoyable experience and all can be proud of their part in making it the success it was. One of the delegates, Olivier Duquesnoy has indicated that he will be in Cambridge for the Armistice weekend this year, so it will be great to welcome him back.



The site for the commemorative sculpture located within the oak arboretum.



Farewell! Marie Jose Burlion and Mike Pettit



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Liberation Event “Let’s Pétanque”, organized by Julie Epps and Grant Middlemiss, members of the Le Quesnoy Sister City Committee of the Cambridge Community Board, was a wonderful family evening at the Cambridge Bowling Club where we played bowls and Pétanque. This was held on Friday 4th November in recognition of the liberation of Le Quesnoy 98 years previous. It was a great initiative and well supported. We look forward to this event happening again later in the year.



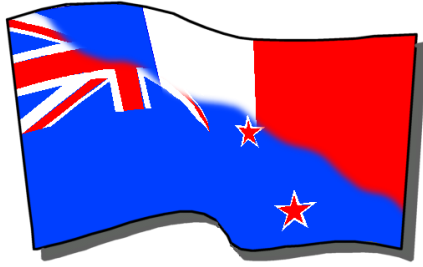
The commemorative service for Armistice and Remembrance Sunday was slightly revised last year with a general salute rather than individual anthems which shortened the overall service. Unfortunately, due to high winds the Stearman Bi-Planes were unable to complete a flyover. We welcomed Navy personnel from HMNZS Ngapona and HMAS Darwin who acted as escorting

officers. Both ships were taking part in the 75th anniversary of the Royal New Zealand Navy. An article featuring the commemorative service was written by Julie Epps and published in the August Newsletter of Sister Cities New Zealand.

This year’s **Salute Light Show and Concert** was again held on the eve of ANZAC Day and was supported by the Cambridge and Matamata Brass Bands whom we sincerely thank. The lightshow on the façade of the town hall depicted 10 slides focused on Gallipoli while the 40 slide light show, held during the intermission of the band concert inside the hall, depicted the battle of Passchendaele and Gallipoli. Families brought picnic dinner while inside the town hall was a full house.

A small team has been put together to focus on **Bastille Day (Friday, 14 July)**. Again it will involve some fun while promoting the story behind our Sister City connection. **The New Zealand Memorial Museum project in Le Quesnoy** is at last making progress and updated information is expected to be made public in Cambridge on Bastille Day. Details will be distributed to members closer to the time.

The trip to Le Quesnoy for the 100th anniversary of the liberation of Le Quesnoy, is now only 18 months away. Airfares can be booked 12 months in advance and Marie Coles is assisting us with fares and tours etc. The Cambridge Brass Band is also currently fundraising and organising their trip to Le Quesnoy also. If you are considering visiting Le Quesnoy for the 100th anniversary and would like to be part of the full tour, either flights and land tour, or land tour only, please email me mike.pettit@waipadc.govt.nz



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

The 100th anniversary of the liberation of Le Quesnoy in November 2018 has several events planned to occur in Cambridge. This is largely being organised by the Armistice in Cambridge Committee and supported by the Cambridge Community Board. We believe it will be a great way to really connect Cambridge residents with the importance of the story behind the liberation of Le Quesnoy and what was happening in Cambridge on the day that armistice was declared.

A message from the facebook page for your information –

“If anyone is looking for photographs of headstones for Great War NZ casualties in Belgium, Germany, Greece, Turkey, the Netherlands, Switzerland or France please message me and I will be only too happy to send them to you. Lest we forget.” Grant’s facebook page is www.facebook.com/grant.tobin.9

The Association’s facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/CambridgeLeQuesnoy> and the website is <http://www.cambridgelequesnoy.co.nz>

Until next time, kind regards

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

Mike Pettit

Chair

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