

CAMBRIDGE / LE QUESNOY

FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION

31 July 2015
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Hi Members

Hopefully in the future, you'll receive two newsletters per year - June/July and the other late November.

The Le Quesnoy Sister City Committee has met three times this year in February, April and June. Minutes can be found following this link <http://www.cambridgelequesnoy.co.nz/Association.html>

At the February meeting, John Bishop resigned as Chair of this committee due to being elected a councillor of Waipa District Council. On behalf of the committee we thank John for his commitment to the Cambridge/Le Quesnoy Friendship Association and for his Chairmanship of the Le Quesnoy Sister City Committee since December 2011 and for his ongoing involvement as member of the association and committee. As Chair of the Cambridge Community Board, I subsequently took on this role and am learning at every meeting.

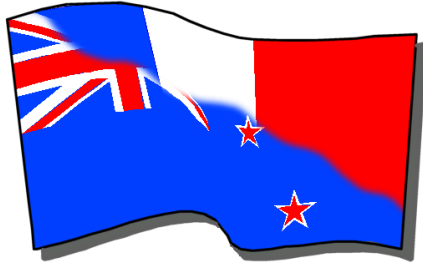
An article, "Too Quiet on the Western Front", relating to Le Quesnoy, was written by Sally Blundell and published in the NZ Listener towards the end of last year. This generated some letters to the editor including one by myself. Subsequent to this Herb Farrant was interviewed for 20 minutes on National Radio discussing The New Zealand Memorial Museum to be established in Le Quesnoy.

An attractive promotional brochure has been published depicting the Sister City relationship between Cambridge and Le Quesnoy. These pamphlets can be found at the Cambridge i-Site, Cambridge Museum, Te Awamutu Museum, Waikato Museum, and the National Army Museum at Waikouru. Thank you to Council staff for putting this together.

A light show on the front of the Cambridge Town Hall took place on Friday 24th April, depicting scenes from ANZAC Cove. A light show with an Armistice theme was mooted to be held prior to Armistice Day but no firm decision has been made to date.

The World War 1 replica trench at Mighty River Domain is now been opened for visits by students and the Education Facilitator of Waipa District Council is running informative classes.

Herb Farrant visited Le Quesnoy during April and attended our June meeting. Herb gave us a very positive update on the progress of The New Zealand Memorial Museum to be established in Le



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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

Quesnoy by November 2018. Negotiations are currently taking place between the French Government and the Trust around the purchase of the land. The project cost is estimated at \$11.2 million which would include the establishment of the hotel, surrounding buildings and the museum.

The Cambridge Community Board is establishing a strategic plan and an annual calendar of events which will include activities relating to Le Quesnoy, Armistice Day and Bastille Day.

There is a pipe band march being organised for this year's Armistice Day commemorations by members of the Armistice Civic Service committee. The committee is looking at different ways, through media and schools, to further promote the Civic Service and increase the numbers attending. With all the media coverage and programming on television it is a prime time to establish Armistice Day as a significant and important event as ANZAC Day is for Cambridge.

Details for the **Armistice Civic Service** are as follows –

Date *Sunday, 8 November 2015*
Time *10.00am*
Venue *Cambridge Town Hall Plaza*

Light refreshments will be provided for members of the Cambridge/Le Quesnoy Friendship Association in the Cambridge Town Hall at the conclusion of the service.

The next meeting of the Le Quesnoy Sister City Committee will be held on **Monday, 17 August 2015 at 5.00pm** in the Committee Room at the Cambridge Service Centre of the Waipa District Council, 23 Wilson Street, Cambridge. You're welcome to attend if you're in the vicinity.



Looking forward to seeing you all at the Armistice Civic Service. Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

Kind regards

Mike Pettit

Chair

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