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# CAMBRIDGE / LE QUESNOY

## FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION

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6 October 2017  
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Bonjour, Tena Koutou, Greetings!

Firstly, I wish to acknowledge the recent passing of our dear friend Sue Pickering, a long standing and instrumental member of the Le Quesnoy Sister City Committee. Her connection with Le Quesnoy, knowledge of it and all things French, her fluency of the language and her willingness to always put herself forward will be greatly missed. We will never replace Sue Pickering, however we are all better people for having her involved in our lives. We are all here to support Tom and his wonderful family as they move forward with their lives. From your Le Quesnoy family, Sue, we acknowledge, remember and salute you.

### **A bevy of berets in Cambridge – Bastille Day, 14 July 2017**

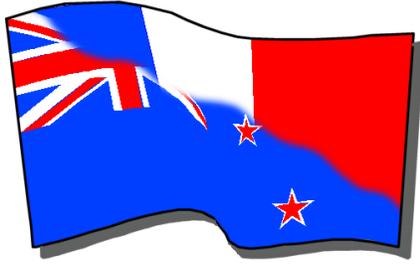


You didn't have to go far to spot a beret in Cambridge on Bastille Day - a day when Cambridge celebrated its French connection.

That connection is of course, Cambridge's French sister city, Le Quesnoy. Despite New Zealand being mid-winter, in contrast to France's mid-summer, the winter chill didn't hamper people's enthusiasm for going French for the day. From berets and French moustaches in New World, to delicious French food in cafes, and French-style stripey tops in many shops.

During the day, the Le Quesnoy Sister City committee organised the "Bonjour Couch" as the hub downtown. There were kids' activities and competitions - a 'guess the cheese' competition, Eiffel tower challenge, as well as a croissant and shoppers' competition. The poodle promenade saw four French pooches walking the red carpet. There was plenty of food on offer – throughout the day there was a steady stream of people munching croissants on the couch. And even the poodles were well taken care of with doggie treats donated by a local business.

The day was also an opportunity for the public to be part of Cambridge's "Can you say Le Quesnoy?" video which committee member Julie Epps organized and said "Le Quesnoy is a hard name for kiwis to say, so the idea behind making the video was to show people how to say it correctly, and to have a go themselves. We launched the teaser video online a week before Bastille Day and it had over 7,000 views then. On Bastille Day we had loads of people, of all ages, who came along especially to sit on the Bonjour Couch and give us their version of 'Le Quesnoy'. Simon from Create Video was amazing as our cameraman, and the public really got into the spirit of it." Another "French" event which drew a good crowd was a fencing demonstration by the Waikato Swords Club. People were fascinated watching the fast, adrenalin-packed demonstration.



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And at night the festivities continued - Alpino Restaurant was packed out with people enjoying a special Bastille Day French dinner, and the Cambridge Library screened a French movie.

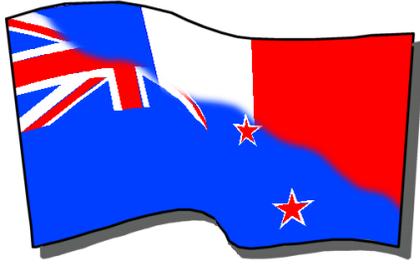


Also on Bastille Day at St Andrew's Church, the New Zealand War Memorial Museum Trust hosted a Service to Raise Awareness of the Trust's memorial museum project in Le Quesnoy. This project will commemorate the memory of New Zealanders who served in Europe in both World Wars. Le Quesnoy is significant because the fortified town was liberated by the New Zealand 1st and 3rd Infantry Brigades on 4 November 1918. 135 New Zealanders were killed as a result of this battle within seven days of the Armistice. Some of these men had also endured Gallipoli, the Somme and Passchendaele.



The land, on which the former Gendarmerie sits, is in the process of being purchased by the Trust. General fundraising efforts are now underway to start securing the initial funds required to upgrade the main building, the ex-Mayor's residence (as pictured right), and allow for the construction of a new building which will form part of the museum. Speakers at the launch included Herb Farrant, Founder-Secretary General, New Zealand War Memorial Museum Trust and the Trust's Chairman, Greg Moyle. Sarah Ulmer and Madeline Wilson, spoke of their impressions as visitors to Le Quesnoy and Colin Averill, of family links. Representatives of the local New Zealand Returned and Services Association were present and a wreath was laid by Celia Caughey (Trustee) and Greg Moyle in front of the plaque acknowledging Lt Colonel Lawrence "Curly" Blyth, the officer in charge of the New Zealand





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liberators of Le Quesnoy, whose ashes are interred in the French garden of the church. Music was provided by the Cambridge Brass Band. Further information can be found through the Trust's official website: <https://nzwarmemorialmuseum.co.nz>

### **Battle of Passchendaele, 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – 12 October 2017**

With the commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Passchendaele, we remember New Zealand experienced one of its darkest days on 12 October 1917, with the loss of 843 soldiers. This devastating loss of life remains the highest one-day death toll suffered by New Zealand forces overseas. Commemorative services will be held in Auckland and Cambridge on 12 October and Tauranga on 14 October.

### **Le Quesnoy Trip - November 2018**

Registrations of interest for visiting Le Quesnoy next November to attend the commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries of the Liberation of Le Quesnoy and Armistice are still being received by Marie Coles from Hello World. You can contact Marie directly through [marie.coles@helloworld.co.nz](mailto:marie.coles@helloworld.co.nz) A Mayoral delegation of the Waipa District Council is in the process of being organized.

### **A Commemorative Service for Armistice and Remembrance Sunday – 12 November 2017**

We welcome and encourage you to attend the commemorative service for Armistice and Remembrance Sunday to be held on 12 November 2017. Before the service will be a Marching Parade commencing at 9.45am led by a combined Pipe Band and the New Zealand Cadet Force. The service is held on the plaza of the Cambridge Town Hall and begins at 10.00am. In attendance at this year's service will be Olivier Duquesnoy who visited with the Le Quesnoy delegation in February of this year. After the service a meeting will be held in the Edwardian Room of the Cambridge Town Hall for members of the Cambridge Le Quesnoy Friendship Association who are in attendance and any other interested persons. Light refreshments will be served.

Until next time, kind regards

Mike Pettit, Chair

027 632 0375

[mike.pettit@waipadc.govt.nz](mailto:mike.pettit@waipadc.govt.nz)



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