

# CAMBRIDGE / LE QUESNOY

FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION

28 October 2016

Bonjour, Tena Koutou, Greetings!



One of the highlights this year was “**Bonjour Bastille Day**” held on Thursday 14th July to promote the sister city connection between Le Quesnoy and Cambridge. It was a huge success and lots of fun through shops dressing up, engaging the public with a stand with French connection information, French Scrabble, “Frogs Legs”, Can Can girls and a piper.

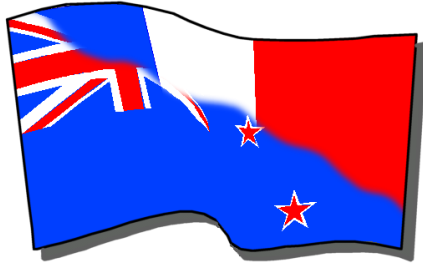
That evening 40 keen people took part in a progressive dinner where we were wined and dined at Alpha Street Kitchen & Bar, Onyx Café & Bar and Alpino Cucina e Vino. It was also a great opportunity to see the cenotaph illuminated in blue, white and red. It was a great way to spend a memorable Bastille Day. Well done to Julie Epps and Grant Middlemiss and all those who helped organize the day.



The Le Quesnoy Sister City Committee is finalizing plans for the impending visit of a **delegation of 26 friends travelling from Le Quesnoy** who will be visiting Cambridge between 17<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> February 2017. Highlights will be visits to the Avantidrome, Rowing New Zealand and the Lake Karapiro Domain and the newly constructed Petanque Court. The blessing of the site for the proposed Le Quesnoy Memorial Sculpture in the Oak Arboretum will also take place with the sculptor Fred Graham, local iwi, Cambridge Community Board, Waipa District Councillors and interested locals invited to the ceremony. A formal lunch hosted by Mayor Mylchreest will be held to celebrate the delegation’s visit.

For your information, the delegation’s itinerary is as follows –

Christchurch	8 – 9 February
Dunedin	10 – 11 February
Te Anau	12 – 13 February
Wanaka	14 February
Gisborne	15 – 16 February



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Cambridge	17-19 February
Whitianga	20 February
Auckland	21-22 February

If you wished to make contact with the delegation, the travel company is Antipodes Travel Ltd, Dunedin 03 477 3300 [info@antipodes-travel.com](mailto:info@antipodes-travel.com)

**“Let’s Petanque” will be held on Friday, 4 November at 5.30pm to 7.00pm to commemorate the 98<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Le Quesnoy.** Come along and try out the newly constructed petanque court at the Cambridge Bowling Club/Thornton Club at 39 Thornton Road near Lake Te Ko Utu. Grant Middlemiss will sign in visitors to the Club where beverages and food can be purchased. To assist with numbers, and if you would like to see the Club’s menu options beforehand, please advise Julie Epps 021 253 8283 or [djepps@xtra.co.nz](mailto:djepps@xtra.co.nz) See you there!

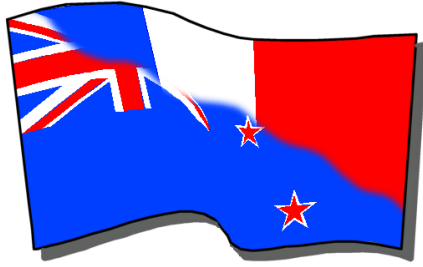
**Trip to Le Quesnoy, April 2018** - Marie Coles from The Innovative Travel Company is coordinating a trip to Le Quesnoy between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018 for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the liberation of Le Quesnoy and Armistice Day, the end of World War I. Marie will be providing two packages, the first being an escorted tour from New Zealand to include the commemorations in Le Quesnoy, and a land only option for the commemorations at Le Quesnoy and a few days visiting World War I landmarks in conjunction with the first group. Once these have been compiled, expressions of interest will be sought in the New Year.

There is no government subsidy for descendants of New Zealand soldiers to attend overseas events. A full list of ceremonies can be found at [www.ww100.govt.nz/national-ceremonies](http://www.ww100.govt.nz/national-ceremonies)

**Commemorative Stamps 2018** – the Le Quesnoy Sister City Committee has been informed that NZ Post will include a stamp depicting Le Quesnoy, and possibly a coin will also be minted, to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Liberation of Le Quesnoy. The story of the Cambridge Le Quesnoy connection will be included in the commemorative booklet that will be published with the stamp issue.

You are all invited to attend the **Commemorative Service for Armistice and Remembrance Sunday which will be held on 13 November 2016.** The service will commence at 10.00am at the Cambridge Town Hall Plaza and Cenotaph with a massed pipes and drums parade departing the hall at 9.45am prior to the service. Wreaths will be laid on behalf of 10 countries who were allies during World War I and flags of those countries will be flown during the service.

A light luncheon will be held following the service for members of Cambridge/Le Quesnoy Friendship Association, military personnel and others who have assisted in the ceremony in the Edwardian Room of the Cambridge Town Hall. Memorabilia relating to Le Quesnoy will be on display.



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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

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**The Battle of the Somme Seminar** - 2016 marks the 100 year commemoration of the Battle of the Somme, and the “**Armistice in Cambridge**” committee are delighted to have military historian and President of the New Zealand Military Historical Society, Herb Farrant as a guest speaker. Herb will speak on “The Somme in Retrospect 1916 – 2016”.

**Date and Time**     *Saturday, 12 November at 11.30am*

**Venue**                 *Sir Don Rowlands Centre, Mighty River Domain, Lake Karapiro*

**Address**               *601 Maungatautari Road, Cambridge*

**Entry Fee**             *\$15 for adults, \$5 for children 12 years and under*

The committee bade farewell to long standing member Ann Lee, who represented Alliance Francaise de Hamilton and welcomed Linda Robinson as her replacement.

There is one more meeting this year of the Le Quesnoy Sister City Committee on 5 December. On behalf of the committee, we thank everyone for their support, passion and interest over the year. We are looking forward to the Le Quesnoy delegation next year and putting preparations in place for significant events that will take place in 2018.

Although early, we wish you a pleasant and relaxed end to the year and a safe and Merry Christmas.

Kind regards

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

Mike Pettit

Chair

027 632 0375

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

