



CAMBRIDGE / LE QUESNOY FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION

13 October 2014
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Hi Members

Armistice Civic Service at the Cambridge Cenotaph, Sunday 9 November at 10.15am

Although nobody knows where the past twelve months have gone, we are once again organising the Armistice Day commemorations in Cambridge. Last year we were disappointed at the number of general public in attendance and at a subsequent meeting resolved to address this with an advertising programme in local and Waikato papers, especially as 2014 is 100 years since the start of WW1. Last year those attending the afternoon tea expressed the view we should meet earlier after the service. Accordingly the Le Quesnoy Sister City Committee are pleased to invite Cambridge / Le Quesnoy Friendship Association members and friends to meet at the St Andrews Church Centre for a cup of tea and a sandwich on Sunday, 9 November 2014 at midday. We are hopeful Nathalie Phillippe will be able to attend. For catering purposes, could you please email Noelene.Barr-Allwood@waipadc.govt.nz if able to attend.

Armistice at the Mighty River Domain, Lake Karapiro

This event is on again this year, 8th and 9th November. More than 10,000 folk visit the site over the Saturday and Sunday to enjoy what is now a major event on the Waipa calendar. This year a trench is being constructed to give visitors to Armistice a snap shot of what life was like in the trenches. Over the next few months schools and other interested parties will be encouraged to visit the site and use the experience as part of their education.

New Mayor in Le Quesnoy

Following elections in France, Le Quesnoy has chosen a new mayor – Marie-Sophie Lesne. As Chair of the Le Quesnoy Sister City committee, I have forwarded her name to Waipa Mayor Jim Mylcreest to maintain the Sister City connection.

Le Quesnoy Update

At the Le Quesnoy Sister City Committee meeting in August, Herb Farrant gave the meeting a heads up on developments in Le Quesnoy, as per the following extract from the minutes -

Herb Farrant, President of the New Zealand Military Historical Society, distributed copies of "New Zealand Remembrance Trail", published by the Passchendaele Society which relates to New Zealand specific World War I sites around Flanders Fields in Belgium.

Herb Farrant provided details of his recent tour, "Tag Along Tours", which entails taking New Zealanders to the World War I battlefields on the Western Front; attendance at ANZAC Day ceremonies in Le Quesnoy is included in the tour. The New Zealand Defence Force attended for the first time this year and this presence will continue during the 100th anniversary of World War I. A dawn parade was held in Le Quesnoy and will occur next year on ANZAC Day. The New Zealand Ambassador was in attendance along with numerous New Zealanders who are descendants of soldiers who'd been in Le Quesnoy during the war.



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Trelise Cooper, Patron of the Auckland Royal New Zealand Returned Services Association, has designed ANZAC Day themed clothing and scarves of this range were presented as gifts.

The New Zealand Memorial Museum

Herb Farrant, Trustee of the New Zealand Memorial Museum Trust, said that the donations received for the museum and hotel complex in Le Quesnoy have remained "frozen" in the bank due to the project being unable to proceed because of political factions in Le Quesnoy. The Trust is a "not for profit" organisation and a request was made by the Trust to the Mayor and Council of Le Quesnoy to treat the museum and hotel as separate entities. Advice has now been received that this request was withheld by the previous Mayor, Paul Raoult and not passed onto the Council. Herb spoke with Freddie Dolphin, Director of Tourism of Northern France who is responsible for allocating funds from the French government for projects to commemorate involvement in the Great War, who advised to date, that no such allocation has been made for New Zealand. However three regional museums within three kilometres of Le Quesnoy, are run at a loss. An introduction was made to Marie-Sophie Lesne, the newly elected Mayor, who has indicated that she wished to revisit the entire project. Herb was able to provide her with information relating to the background of the project, and she was intrigued at the number of New Zealanders attending ANZAC Day ceremonies and related receptions.

The original proposal was for the museum/hotel to be in the town square, however the Trust has not been encouraged to progress this due to the attitude of the former Mayor. Another site has been proposed which is owned by the French government and is currently the gendarmerie.

This 10,000 square metre site is available for sale and is located 200 metres north of the town square and is potentially ideal from the Trust's perspective. The existing building would house the museum and a separate building would be built for the hotel and car park, behind the current building.

A letter has been received by the Trust from Le Quesnoy indicating that they wished the project to proceed. The New Zealand Government has indicated that they are thinking of doing something "significant" at Le Quesnoy however this won't be progressed until following the general elections in September.

The next meeting of the Le Quesnoy Sister City Committee will be held on **Monday, 20 October 2014 at 5.00pm** in the Committee Room at the Cambridge Service Centre of the Waipa District Council, 23 Wilson Street, Cambridge.

Kind regards
John Bishop
Chair
0274 971 666

A COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE FOR ARMISTICE



Sunday, 9 November 2014 at 10.15am
At the Cambridge Town Hall Plaza and Cenotaph

**Join us at the Commemorative Service
for Armistice on Remembrance Sunday**

This service has been held in Cambridge on the Sunday closest to 11 November since 2001 to reciprocate the gesture made by Le Quesnoy, our Sister City in northern France, who has commemorated ANZAC Day in remembrance of the New Zealand soldiers who liberated the town on 4 November 1918.

The New Zealand Cadet Corps march through town to the cenotaph at 9.30am to mark the 150th Anniversary of the Corps establishment.

**Help us mark this significant occasion,
The Centennial of World War I.**

Everyone is invited to attend.

**www.facebook.com/CambridgeLeQuesnoy
www.cambridgelequesnoy.co.nz**



Stained glass window at St Andrew's Church depicting New Zealand soldiers scaling the walls at Le Quesnoy