

NEW ZEALAND MEMORIAL

Le Quesnoy | France

APRIL 2021

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW ZEALAND MEMORIAL MUSEUM TRUST - LE QUESNOY



Visiting war graves anywhere in the world is always a sombre experience and especially so on Anzac Day. When travelling in my former roles as Foreign Minister or Commonwealth Secretary-General, I would always ensure that I could participate in a service wherever I was with other Kiwis, and our Aussies mates.

For my generation, many of us with fathers who fought in WWII, going to dawn services was just part of life. Then, along came the Vietnam War and, for a while, those services became something many people avoided and even the subject of protest. But observance has picked up and increased year after year for the last two or so decades and at one stage, the numbers of young Kiwis and Aussies overwhelmed the beaches of Gallipoli on Anzac Day to the extent that the service had to be shifted.

Young people want to know about this history and we owe it to them to make it accessible. That is why we exist as a Trust - to establish the New Zealand Memorial Museum at Le Quesnoy so that we, and future generations of New Zealanders, really do remember and honour the terrible price paid for today's freedoms and continue to strive for enduring peace.



*Sir Don McKinnon - Chair
New Zealand Memorial Museum Trust*

FUNDRAISING UPDATE



The former World War I Mayoral home destined to become the future venue of the New Zealand Memorial Museum and Visitor Centre, in Le Quesnoy.

Getting over the half way point in any project is momentous, and that is the hugely pleasing milestone this project has reached.

With a budget of NZ\$15 million required to secure the property, renovate the gracious manor house, and design and build a purpose built annex - getting to \$8.5 million is an exciting step forward towards that goal.

Progress has been steady in the past few months, with generous New Zealanders from all walks of life giving significant amounts of money and the project has recently secured the support of two key partners. Between them, they have given \$4 million, which is a significant boost to the project.

Former industrialist Richard Izard has become the project's Founding Partner. As well as his most generous financial support, a high school student exchange between the Waikato town of Cambridge and a high school in Le Quesnoy will get underway as part of Richard's support.

The Lindsay Foundation have also recently partnered with the project to become our Major Funding Partner. With Brendan and Jo Lindsay also having a connection to Cambridge through Cambridge Stud, this small Waikato town truly has a very tangible connection to its sister city in Le Quesnoy.

These two hugely generous donations, as well as substantial gifts from a variety of donors, has helped drive momentum, enabling the project to enter the implementation phase.

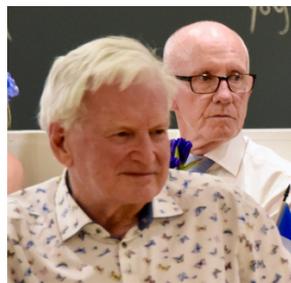
However, in order to finalize those plans - with a preferred timeline to design, build and fit out our piece of New Zealand on the Western Front - the project will, of course, require more funding. The Trust is actively seeking further financial support from New Zealanders across the board, so we can move forward with purpose to a new stage, now we have this generous funding boost from our new Founding Partner and Major Partner.

We are incredibly grateful to each and every New Zealander who understands the purpose of having a place of national significance in France that New Zealanders can call our own. It is a gift for all our children, and beyond.

THANKING OUR DONORS

Having got to a significant milestone in fundraising, for the first time since the Trust was formed, a function was held to recognize the project's significant supporters. New Zealand Military Historian Dr Chris Pugsley started the evening with a history lesson, describing the events that led to the liberation of Le Quesnoy. A French / New Zealand inspired menu followed, created by renowned Kiwi Chef Peter Gordon, at his new restaurant - Homeland.

As well as donors, guests included the French Ambassador, Her Excellency Mrs Sylvaine Carta-Le Vert, Patron Rt. Hon. Helen Clark, and Friends Emeritus Governors General Rt. Hon. Sir Anand Satyanand and Rt. Hon. Lt. Gen. Sir Jerry Mateparae. Descendants of 2nd Lt Leslie Averill, first man over the wall at Le Quesnoy and Major General Andrew Russell, the World War One New Zealand Divisional Commander, were also in attendance.



ANZAC DAY



Tyne Cot Cemetery in Belgium is the largest Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery on the Western Front. It contains more New Zealand First World War graves than any other cemetery. There are 520 graves of New Zealanders, 322 unidentified. The New Zealand Apse in the memorial commemorates 1,176 New Zealanders who have no known grave.

ANZAC Day this year in Le Quesnoy will again be under lockdown conditions. It prevents the usual commemorations of a dawn service, a gathering at the memorial wall and a Town Hall Mayoral lunch where children sing the NZ National Anthem perfectly in Māori and English.

While New Zealanders stood at their front gates last year due

to lockdown, this year we are again able to congregate. Dawn services will be full of young and old, as we reflect as a nation on those who have served our country, many of whom paid the ultimate price.

New Zealand media will have lots of stories about our men and women in uniform, whether they served over 100 years ago, or more recently.

For the 15th year, Māori Television presents live ANZAC Day coverage of the dawn parade at the Auckland War Memorial Museum.

Following on, from 7am - 9am, documentaries featuring Le Quesnoy will screen.

Grandfather's Footsteps by David Blyth retraces the war of Curly Blyth - the longest living Le Quesnoy veteran.

Jude Dobson's *The Liberation of Le Quesnoy*, pieces together the events of Le Quesnoy through the descendants of the men who were there, and the people of the town.

Whatever your ANZAC Day brings, may we all pause to remember. Lest we forget.



A front door in Le Quesnoy last ANZAC Day, when lockdown prevented gatherings.

THE NEW ZEALAND MEMORIAL MUSEUM TRUST - LE QUESNOY

TO MAKE A TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION:

Go to our website www.nzwmm.org.nz/donate
click **DONATE** and follow the instructions

OR

Donate via direct bank transfer using the following details:

Account name: New Zealand Memorial Museum Trust – Le Quesnoy
Account number: 03-1509-0097188-000
Reference: Your first and last name

OR

Write a cheque made payable to
**The New Zealand Memorial Museum
Trust - Le Quesnoy**
and send to
PO Box 90345
Auckland 1143

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**NEW ZEALAND
MEMORIAL MUSEUM**
LE QUESNOY FRANCE
— A PLACE TO REMEMBER —

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