

NEW ZEALAND MEMORIAL

Le Quesnoy | France

SEPTEMBER 2020

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW ZEALAND MEMORIAL MUSEUM TRUST - LE QUESNOY

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The Covid19 pandemic affects us all to one extent or another. Many of us are used to planning ahead, especially in relation to overseas travel for work or pleasure. However, given quarantine requirements and the variable risks of contracting the disease overseas, many of us are staying in New Zealand for the foreseeable future.

Our project in Le Quesnoy is caught up in this, as are most places. The town, along with the rest of France, was locked down for a long time but tradesmen and women are slowly and cautiously getting back to work after a very hot summer. We've always known this was a long haul project but no-one could have predicted Covid19.

Nevertheless our supporters remain with us, committed as we are to remembering our war dead. Some prospective donors and businesses affected by the Covid19 downturn, have understandably delayed their contribution which means slower progress, but donations continue to flow into our accounts. Thank you to all who support us in whatever way - we value your involvement and we wish you well in your own families and businesses.

Ours is a multi-generational undertaking and as we reflect on the pandemic, it is worth noting that NZ lost 9,000 people in a few months from the Spanish 'flu after WWI. That was on top of the 20,000 killed in the war.

Since then, successive generations have fought for us, not just in conflict but also in laboratories, developing science that helps protect us. We haven't yet found the answer to Covid19 but we can reflect perhaps that we are better off than our antecedents some 100 years ago.

Until next time, take care.



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

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT



The former home of the Le Quesnoy WWI mayor (pre-renovation) that will house the New Zealand museum & visitor centre.

We are marking a new chapter as experts guide the visitor experience.

The Trust is awaiting an Experience Design Brief, in the coming weeks. This will finalise the concept and complete the strategic set-up phase.

The authors of this detailed work are our three museum professionals - Lily Frederikse, Tim Walker and Karl Johnstone.

With an interpretive plan, strategic plan, feasibility study and experience design brief completed, the Trust will be following museum design best practice and will be well placed to begin the next phase.

Having New Zealand's best designers on board will ensure a world class experience for future visitors to Le Quesnoy.

Lily Frederikse holds a Masters in Museums and Heritage. She has over 20 years' experience in creating projects and facilities that connect people with places of cultural, heritage and environmental value.

Her input is evident at Te Kōngahu Museum of Waitangi, as well as other award winning New Zealand visitor experiences.

Tim Walker played a leading role through the development of the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, New Zealand's national museum.

Tim has vast experience with feasibility studies, strategic planning, story framework development and organisational development. He consults to a variety of museums and art & cultural entities as well as local and central government projects.

Karl Johnstone is the creative director for the New Zealand Pavilion at Expo 2020 in Dubai (now postponed until 2021). He is a leading cultural development expert with national and international experience in the heritage, arts and design sectors.

The Trust is pleased to have such a breadth and depth of experience available to us, as we shape the offering to honour our past, engage our present and inform our future.

PASSCHENDAELE - NEW ZEALAND'S DARKEST DAY



Tyne Cot Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery & Memorial to the Missing, Belgium.

The record for the highest number of New Zealanders to die on a single day, belongs to WWI.

On 12th of October 1917, 846 young New Zealanders were killed in Belgium in the Battle for Bellevue Spur, part of the Passchendaele Offensive. Many more would die over the coming days from wounds received on this one day.

By the end of the day the total number of casualties - the wounded, the dead and the missing - was 2,740. It would take another two and a half days to clear the battlefield of the dead and injured.

It would still be another year before the war was over, and by then over 4,600 New Zealand servicemen would end their lives in Flanders Fields.

They are commemorated or buried in some 80 cemeteries and memorials throughout what was known during the war as the Ypres Salient (a Salient means 'a bulge in the frontline').

One such cemetery is Tyne Cot (above) the largest for Commonwealth forces in the world, for any war. However, of the 12,000 graves, less than a third of them are identified. Another 35,000 whose remains were never found are listed on the memorial walls.

More New Zealanders lie here than any other cemetery beyond our shores. 1,696 to be exact. We have 520 graves and another 1,176 Kiwis are commemorated on the Memorial Wall. Missing men with no known grave.

The shelled, cratered landscape with mud so thick that soldiers just disappeared,

never to be found again, reflects the huge numbers of missing men. The magnificent Menin Gate Memorial at Ypres is a ten minute drive from Tyne Cot and further demonstrates this reality by holding the names of 55,000 missing men from the Commonwealth. It remains hard to fathom that Menin Gate and Tyne Cot between them commemorate over 100,000 deaths.

Every year New Zealand's Passchendaele Society holds a remembrance service to mark these bleak battles in our history and remember those who gave their lives so very far from home. Lest we forget.

Should you be in Auckland, the service details are below.

When: 11am, Sunday 11 Oct.
Please be seated by 10.45am.

Where: WW1 Hall, 2nd Floor,
Auckland War Memorial
Museum.

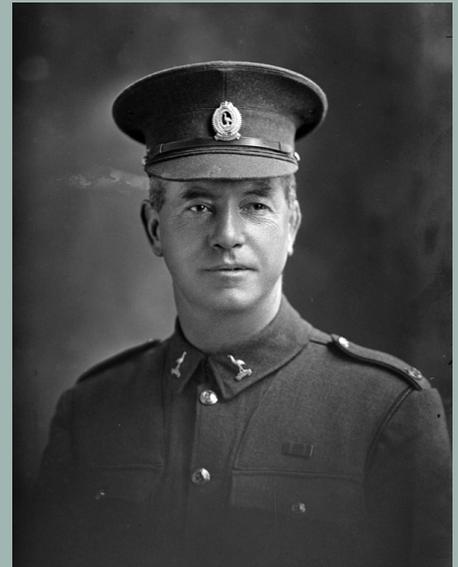
Notes: Floral tributes or poppies may be laid and medals worn. All welcome, however COVID-19 restrictions may limit numbers.



ALL BLACKS ON THE WESTERN FRONT



The 1905-6 All Blacks - Captain David Gallaher is in the middle row, fifth from left. Image credit: Alexander Turnbull Library.



Sergeant Dave Gallaher. All Black #97 Image credit: Auckland Libraries.

Thirteen former All Blacks were killed in World War One.

Former All Black captain Dave Gallaher died at Passchendaele on 4th October 1917. His grave in Poperinge, Belgium is said to be New Zealand's most visited grave. Certainly many an All Black side has paid homage at Nine Elms Cemetery.

His name lives on in the Gallaher Shield, awarded to the winner of Auckland's premier club competition and the Dave Gallaher Cup awarded to the winner of the first rugby test between New Zealand and France in each calendar year.

Decades later another former All Black captain honours all those who gave their lives, as patron of the Passchendaele Society. We caught up with Buck Shelford for a Q & A.

You've been to the Western Front?

My wife Jo and I have visited many urupa/cemeteries in Europe and the more you see, the more you cry. Cry for what they've done for us and the ages they fell. As ex military (Navy) I will never forget those who gave their lives.

What inspires your involvement as patron?

Keeping the memories alive of what these men died for. Igniting the Ahi Ka of our youth to understand what happened and to be proud of our small nation that sacrificed many young to fight a war that did not belong to us.

Many Kiwis know about Gallipoli. Perhaps not as many know of the Western Front?

We should not say one battle is worthy of more news than another. We should all know when and where the battles

were at which our tupuna paid the price with their lives. Those who returned home had to live with their memories forever.

Your thoughts on finally having a NZ museum & visitor centre?

Hundreds of Kiwis travel around Europe looking to find relatives and other Kiwis who died in WWI. Le Quesnoy would be the perfect place with Passchendaele close by, as well as many other significant places in our past.



Wayne 'Buck' Shelford. All Black #860 Image credit: Passchendaele Society.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

As noted by Sir Don McKinnon, the Trust Chair (page 1), Covid 19 has not left any individual, any family or any business untouched.

2020 has been a year like no other for populations globally. It has brought unforeseen hardship and sadness to many.

Given the uncertainty and turmoil, fundraising efforts were quite appropriately put into hiatus for a few months.

The last few weeks however have seen significant progress with the generosity of some folk being truly heartening.

These donors recognise the need for New Zealand to have a place we can call our own.

They understand this project's significance for educating future generations, and how important it is that we do not forget the sacrifice that was made some 100 years ago.

The Trust is incredibly grateful to our donors who have supported us to date, as we move forward to create a lasting legacy for New Zealand that Kiwis globally can be proud of.

If you did feel you were able to make a donation, however big or small, we would be hugely grateful for your kind support.

The various ways to make a contribution are listed below.

THE NEW ZEALAND MEMORIAL MUSEUM TRUST - LE QUESNOY

TO MAKE A DONATION:

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

OR

Write a cheque made payable to
**THE NEW ZEALAND MEMORIAL MUSEUM
TRUST - LE QUESNOY**

and send to
**PO Box 90345
Auckland 1143**

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

PROJECT TEAM

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NEW ZEALAND MEMORIAL MUSEUM

LE QUESNOY FRANCE

— A PLACE TO REMEMBER —

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