



NZ Remembers

The New Zealand Experience, Le Quesnoy

Kia ora,

Greetings to you, whether you are reading this in wintry New Zealand or enjoying the height of a European summer. Much has been achieved in the first half of 2022 and I hope you enjoy reading the updates to the project that this newsletter provides.

On ANZAC Day this year we announced Wētā Workshop as the visitor experience provider at our venue in Le Quesnoy, France. Wētā Workshop has a unique ability to tell human stories in times of conflict in a way that is immersive and engaging. Having a globally renowned award-winning New Zealand based company tell our stories will certainly distinguish this piece of New Zealand's World War I history on an international stage.

While we can't divulge much detail at this point about what visitors can expect to see when it opens, I can tell you that the board has just signed off the concept design and what awaits visitors is impressive. We hope to have the doors fully open in September 2023, so Kiwis travelling to France for the Rugby World Cup can plan a visit.

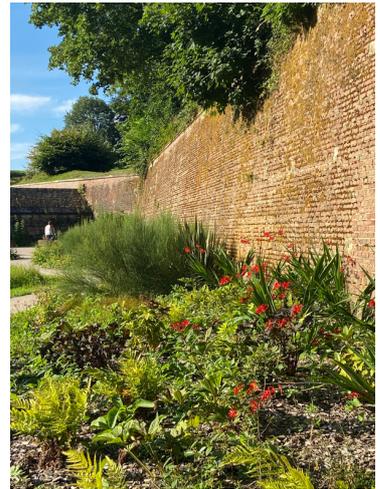
Having completed preparatory work earlier in the year, the renovation of the mansion house, which will house the visitor experience, begins mid July. While it's a gracious building, there is quite some work ahead of the architecture and construction teams as they work with our Project Control Group to ensure it is brought back to its former glory, while being made fit for purpose for the future.

None of this is possible without the amazing generosity of our New Zealand donors. We are incredibly grateful to their shared vision to see this facility come to life. We are not there yet with our total funding needs, but we have committed to a timeline to complete the project next year. We look forward, with the support of our donors, to creating a place New Zealanders can feel at home in and inspired by.

Thank you again for your continued support of our project and to our French friends, we wish you well for La Fête Nationale on 14 July.



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



OUR TIMELINE

With the Rugby World Cup being played in France in September and October 2023, the trust has committed to ensuring the facility will be open to the public by that time.

The Project Control Group is working closely with both Wētā Workshop in New Zealand and the architecture and construction teams in France, to work to this timeframe. The renovation of the mansion house, which will house the visitor experience, begins in mid July. We will keep our supporters informed as to progress in the coming months.

OUR FUNDING

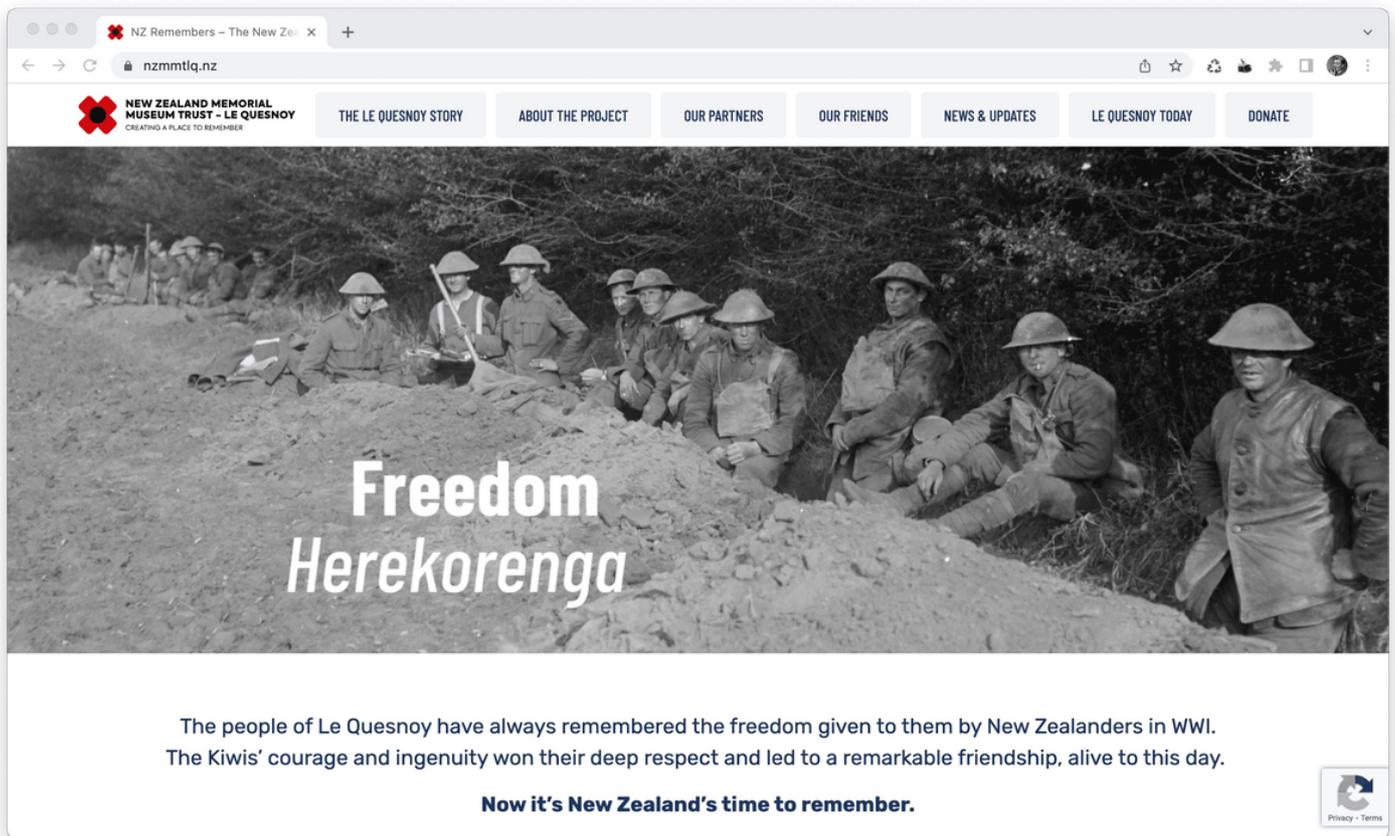
Fundraising has been a core focus of the trust, given the commitment to a timeframe to opening the doors on a fully completed experience. We are now almost two thirds of the way towards our goal.

We continue to be hugely grateful to our generous donors who have supported the project thus far, and are thrilled to welcome more partners to the project. With Wētā Workshop completing the concept design it is exciting to be able to show existing and potential donors what is planned for the site. Our current significant donors are noted on page 5 of this newsletter. Should you, or anyone you know, wish to join them in making a donation, please contact Jenni Giblin. Jenni's email is jenni@giblingroup.co.nz and her mobile is 027 630 4392.

The [website](#) is also easy to make a donation through - we are grateful for any and all donations, regardless of the size. Thank you for thinking of us.

THE NAME

The facility is currently referred to as the 'New Zealand Museum and Visitor Experience - a living memorial.' This descriptor will stay in place until the branding process is completed. The trust, guided by experts and in collaboration with others, will be embarking on this poignant and exciting journey in the coming months.



NZ Remembers - The New Zealand Memorial Museum Trust - Le Quesnoy

THE LE QUESNOY STORY ABOUT THE PROJECT OUR PARTNERS OUR FRIENDS NEWS & UPDATES LE QUESNOY TODAY DONATE

Freedom Herekorenga

The people of Le Quesnoy have always remembered the freedom given to them by New Zealanders in WWI. The Kiwis' courage and ingenuity won their deep respect and led to a remarkable friendship, alive to this day.

Now it's New Zealand's time to remember.

Privacy - Terms

THE WEBSITE

The trust has launched a new website to align with where the project now stands. This website can be found at <https://nzmmtlq.nz> Putting 'NZ Remembers' in a search engine will also get you there.

Here, you will find everything you need to know about the project, and see any news and updates as they happen over the next 12 months. We would also like you to become our friend - it is easy to do. Just head to the [friends](#) part of our website and join the team - you can also leave a message or add a photo if you like.

The [media page](#) holds historic and modern day images of Le Quesnoy, as well as video and podcast material. Should you know any students studying Le Quesnoy this is a good place for them to start as there is some primary source information from soldiers on this page. The [useful links](#) part of the website also has links to New Zealand history sites. Should you be travelling to this part of the world, there are also suggestions on places of interest to visit that tell the story of the Western Front.



WĒTĀ WORKSHOP



Sir Richard Taylor (far left), the co-founder and creative director of Wētā Workshop seen (left) attending to Lottie, one of the super sized creations featured in Gallipoli: The scale of Our War exhibition at Museum of New Zealand, Te Papa Tongarewa.

Internationally acclaimed Wētā Workshop is bringing our vision to life at Le Quesnoy.

For over 30 years, this New Zealand award-winning creative company has applied innovation and artistry to the world's creative industries. Over this time, Sir Richard Taylor has led a talented team of artists, technicians and master craftspeople.

Wētā Workshop is behind the record-breaking *Gallipoli: The Scale of Our War* exhibition which has seen three million visitors through its doors in Wellington and most recently the *Expo 2020 Dubai*. Haumi, co-designers of the NZ Pavilion in Dubai join Wētā Workshop in developing the concept for our living memorial at Le Quesnoy, France. The New Zealand Division's liberation of Le Quesnoy in 1918 and the ongoing friendship between the people of the town and New Zealand make Le Quesnoy the perfect place to have our place: our tūrangawaewae in France.

This will not be a museum of battles, weapons and war; it will be an experience that primarily tells the story of people - ordinary people who found themselves faced with extraordinary circumstances. Three themes have emerged: freedom, friendship and future - all with humanity at the heart of them.

Sir Richard Taylor believes this human touch to be crucial as "thought-provoking and emotional experiences can be created without compromising historical accuracy. History is the story of people, and those stories should be told clearly and faithfully."

While the liberation of Le Quesnoy by the New Zealand Division is at the core of the experience, the experience will honour all New Zealanders who fought on the Western Front in World War I.

A name has yet to be decided upon for the facility, but in the meantime the descriptor is 'a living memorial.' With four memorials to our New Zealand fallen on the Western Front already in place, this facility is intended to add to that legacy by creating a place where people can gather to reflect, to pay our respects, to learn and to feel inspired.

Having recently completed the concept design work, the Wētā Workshop team is now starting on developed design, with content development beginning later this year.



BASTILLE DAY IN CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge in Waikato is twinned with Le Quesnoy in France, so the French national day on 14 July means the town takes the opportunity to celebrate things French. The locals are encouraged to fly French flags, dress in red, white and blue and theme their shop windows. You'll find French food in cafés and some fun events for the whole family.

The French dinner at *The Boat Shed Karapiro* is already booked out, and *Que Bar French Bistro* will be hosting their signature Bastille Day celebration later in the month.

The young ones and their pets might enjoy the *Furry Friends French Fashion Competition and Parade*, and French themed face painting. Not having a pet is no barrier as there is a stuffed toy animals section too. A scavenger hunt at Cambridge Museum includes special items from the Le Quesnoy collection, including a brick from the walls the New Zealand soldiers scaled to liberate the town.

You can find out more about these events, as well as the active friendship between the towns, on the Cambridge Le Quesnoy Friendship Association website (including a helpful video with the correct pronunciation of "Le Quesnoy").

<https://www.cambridgelequesnoy.co.nz>



THE RENOVATION OF THE MANSION HOUSE BEGINS

The beautiful mansion house on the one hectare site in the centre of Le Quesnoy was built in the 1890s and was once, aptly, the home of World War I mayor Archille Carlier.

Between then and now it has held other titles, most recently before the trust purchased it, as the local Gendarmerie (Police Headquarters).

The restoration to house the visitor experience takes considerable care in both the planning and execution of the work required. It also requires collaboration across hemispheres. Having completed the removal of non-original partitions and features earlier this year, refurbishment of this beautiful building begins next week with an intended completion before mid 2023, ready for the visitor experience to be installed.

The process begins on the outside, in the European summer. When the work moves indoors, the intricate tiles on the floor in the entry area (as seen above) will be restored to their former glory, ready to welcome guests. Interestingly, the wrought iron work on the central internal stairway and central balcony at the front of the building gives a sense of the koru pattern. A building perhaps that is ready to imbue both a French and New Zealand feeling to its visitors, after its extensive refurbishment.

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The charitable status of the trust ensures all donations are tax deductible until 31 March 2025.
To make a donation go to our website: <https://nzmmtlg.nz/donate> or bank transfer using the following instructions:

Account name: New Zealand Memorial Museum Trust - Le Quesnoy

Account number: 03 - 1509 - 0097188 - 000

Reference: Your first and last name

To discuss a possible donation please contact Jenni Giblin: jenni@giblingroup.co.nz or ph: +64 27 630 4392

OUR TEAM

OUR PURPOSE

To celebrate freedom and friendship and to inspire the future.

OUR VISION

To create a 'Kiwi place' in France, where memories and relationships are alive.

OUR MISSION

To operate a visitor experience in Le Quesnoy to honour the remarkable actions of New Zealand soldiers who liberated the town and fought in WWI.

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Mark Averill

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NEW ZEALAND MEMORIAL MUSEUM TRUST - LE QUESNOY

CREATING A PLACE TO REMEMBER

New Zealand Memorial Museum Trust - Le Quesnoy
PO Box 90345, Auckland 1143, New Zealand

Email: info@nzmmmtlq.nz Website: www.nzmmmtlq.nz

Charities Commission Number: CC5469