



## NZ Remembers

The New Zealand Experience, Le Quesnoy

Newsletter of the New Zealand Memorial Museum Trust - Le Quesnoy

JULY 2023

Dear Friends and Supporters,

We have passed a milestone. July 4 was the "100 days to go" mark. We are well and truly in the final countdown to the opening - 11 October 2023. Your continued support and enthusiasm for the New Zealand Liberation Museum - Te Arawhata are heartening.

On an inspiring note, I am hugely gratified to report that our team has delivered the museum re-fit on time and on budget. This is no small achievement and all members of our construction team can be proud of their efforts and their professionalism. The next step is the installation of the exhibition by the Wētā Workshop team.

Thank you to our friends and supporters, as always, for joining us on this journey. We will do our best to keep you updated on our progress.



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

## 100 YEARS AGO

The Le Quesnoy New Zealand Memorial was unveiled 100 years ago - 14 July, 1923. This was a work of artistic cooperation. New Zealand sculptor Alex R. Fraser made the model and French sculptor Félix Desruelles prepared the memorial. The memorial is set into the wall of the ramparts, near the spot where the New Zealand soldiers placed their ladder to begin the liberation of Le Quesnoy on 4 November 1918.



## THE WEBSITE

Don't forget to visit the museum website for more information, more news, and some behind-the-scenes stories. Your friends, family, and whānau can sign up to be part of the journey to the opening of the museum on 11 October 2023!

<https://nzliberationmuseum.com>



## OUR TIMELINE

### Mainfreight and the Wētā Workshop Exhibition

By now, you all know about the magnificent work being done by Wētā Workshop to create the exhibition for the Museum. It is one thing to have a wonderful exhibition here in New Zealand; it is another to get that exhibition to France. Enter Mainfreight - and now the first large delivery is already on the sea, and another delivery leaves New Zealand, bound for Le Quesnoy, on 17 July. We could not have made the museum without them.

By the way - if you see a Mainfreight truck out and about, while you are waiting in traffic, or at the lights, take a look at the back of the truck and you will find a saying or a quote. This has the potential to make your day.

## FUNDRAISING



Thanks to all involved in the June fundraising event, involving members of the legal community and held at Simpson Grierson.

Special thanks to Ben Upton and Deborah Thomas from Simpson Grierson. Thanks also to Sir Jerry Mateparae and Sir Don McKinnon for telling the story of the NZ Liberation Museum - Te Arawhata (above). And a huge thanks to Jenni Giblin for all her efforts to get the function off the ground (pictured here with Sir Jerry Mateparae).



## OUR FUNDING



If you, or anyone you know, is keen to be part of this project, please contact our tireless fundraiser Jenni Giblin, at [jenni@giblingroup.co.nz](mailto:jenni@giblingroup.co.nz) or go to the Donate page at [nzliberationmuseum.com/donate](https://nzliberationmuseum.com/donate). You can make a donation here, no matter how big or small, and have your name recorded on our website - forever part of the museum story.

## SUMMER IN LE QUESNOY



Our Project Manager Rosaria Campbell has managed to fit in a bit of gardening - welcoming summer to Le Quesnoy.



## BONNE FÊTE NATIONALE!

July 14 is Bastille Day as we call it in Aotearoa New Zealand – but in France it is called La Fête Nationale. It became an official holiday in 1880 and it marks the fall of the Bastille in Paris, in the early months of what was to become the French Revolution. The medieval fortress was a prison to political prisoners who could be detained at the request of King Louis XVI, with no hope of appeal. We have a unique connection with the French people because of Le Quesnoy and we wish them well in their celebrations.

***Vive le 14 juillet!***



## A MESSAGE FROM HER EXCELLENCY LAURENCE BEAU

We asked Her Excellency Laurence Beau, the French Ambassador to New Zealand, a couple of questions about La Fête Nationale.

### **What does this day mean to Her Excellency the Ambassador?**

The 14th of July symbolises the triumph of the French Revolution and the principles of liberty, equality, and fraternity that form the foundation of our Republic. For me, the 14th of July is a reminder of the enduring values and ideals that our country upholds. It is a day of pride and celebration of our history, as well as an opportunity to reflect on the progress we have made as a nation. It serves as a reminder of the importance of unity, solidarity, and the pursuit of justice and freedom.



Furthermore, as a diplomat, the 14th of July (commonly known in English as Bastille Day) holds a special meaning in terms of international relations. It is a moment to showcase the rich cultural heritage, artistic achievements, and democratic values of France to the world. Diplomatic events and festivities organised on this day provide an opportunity to strengthen ties with other nations and promote dialogue and cooperation on global challenges.

### **Are there any special traditions for La Fête Nationale and what will the Ambassador be doing this year to mark the French national day?**

La Fête Nationale is a significant national holiday in France, and several traditions are observed on this day such as the military parade held in Paris on the Champs-Élysées Avenue, raising the French flag and playing the national anthem (La Marseillaise), firework displays, the firemen's ball and various cultural events.

Every 14th of July is an opportunity to honour an event, and this year in New Zealand, the French Embassy will be honouring sports. Two receptions will be held in Wellington and Auckland: one to mark the Rugby World Cup this year and the opening match on 8 September between France and three-time champions the All Blacks, and the other to mark the Paris Olympics opening in July 2024.