



## NZ Remembers

The New Zealand Experience, Le Quesnoy

Newsletter of the New Zealand Memorial Museum Trust - Le Quesnoy

DEC 2023



Dear Friends and Supporters,

As 2023 draws to a close we look forward to moving into an exciting new phase of the New Zealand Liberation Museum - Te Arawhata.

Some of you have been involved in this project since its inception and others have joined us more recently. For all of us, the opening on 11 October was a truly special milestone.

My interest and subsequent involvement came after visiting Le Quesnoy in 1997 with Clare and my son Peter. It's only since 2010 that I have been actively involved through to the present day. 11 October was for all of us the culmination of many years of fundraising, gently twisting people's arms, arguments with governments, engagements with contractors - and the global pandemic. One way or another, we made it and hundreds of people have passed through Te Arawhata's doors since the official opening.

The next phase is all about generating publicity, ensuring travelling Kiwis put Le Quesnoy on their itinerary and that the local French people and nearby Belgians get to fully understand this extraordinary New Zealand link with New Zealand.

It's also important that the beautiful building and grounds are fully used and appreciated and that means bringing in people with different talents for future decision-making.

2024 is nearly upon us and will see some new trustees and new talents. For example, we hope to maximise the chance to engage French-speaking Kiwis as interns as we further develop the little part of New Zealand that is Te Arawhata.

In our New Year's newsletter I expect to introduce to you to some of the new people joining us.

In the meantime, thank you for all your support over the years. I wish you a wonderful Christmas and an exciting New Year.



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





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## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN LE QUESNOY?

### November 4th

Every year residents of Le Quesnoy commemorate the liberation on November 4 and on Anzac Day. This year the town held a special ceremony followed by a lunch, and in the afternoon, Raymonde Dramez, the former Mayor of neighbouring Beaudignies, gave free guided tours of the NZ Liberation Museum – Te Arawhata and its surrounds.



Photo: Leslie Averill at the dedication ceremony for the New Zealand memorial at Le Quesnoy, France, 1923. Credit: Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington. Ref: PAColl-6181-19.



### November 11th

An armistice brought an end to fighting in World War One on the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918. 105 years on, Le Quesnoy commemorates Armistice Day (or Remembrance Day) with a series of events over two days. There was an evening ceremony where the soldiers who died during the first World War were remembered. On the day of the 11th a procession began at the town hall and finished at the Le Quesnoy memorial.







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## NEWS FROM THE NZ LIBERATION MUSEUM - TE ARAWHATA

### A message from Josh Hansen - the Museum Manger

The museum's doors have been open for two months and we have welcomed almost 2000 visitors. The leaves have fallen off the trees and we have even had some snow, but people from France, New Zealand and around the world continue to visit and express how impressed they are with the museum.

It is moving when New Zealanders walk through the gates and the museum experience's impact is visible for us to see. Sunday afternoons are also a very busy and memorable time of the week as locals often come to the museum post Sunday lunch to experience the exhibit and chat together.

As expected, the number of visitors is lessening as we head into winter, but behind the scenes there is plenty of work going on to make 2024 a fantastic year for Te Arawhata. We continue to work with the town hall, local businesses, and tourism partners who are all very enthusiastic about the museum's future. Our plans for Anzac Day and many other events in 2024 are coming along and we already have school groups from New Zealand lined up to visit next summer.

In the meantime, to close out the year we have a Christmas event on 17 December where we will offer guided tours, picture book readings for children and Christmas snacks. This is an opportunity for locals to visit the museum together and build our sense of community before we close for Christmas and get set for the big year ahead.





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## OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTERNSHIPS

Please let us know if you are interested in an internship at the museum. We have had some extraordinary people come to stay and work in the museum so far, and this programme provides us with an opportunity to share the work we are doing with skilled New Zealanders on their OE.

For more information:

[info@nzliberationmuseum.com](mailto:info@nzliberationmuseum.com)



## PLEASE DONATE

If you, or anyone you know, is keen to be part of this project,

please contact: [info@nzmmtlq.nz](mailto:info@nzmmtlq.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.



## THE WEBSITE

For more news and information

please head to our website at:

<https://nzliberationmuseum.com/>

