



## NZ Remembers

The New Zealand Experience, Le Quesnoy

Newsletter of the New Zealand Memorial Museum Trust - Le Quesnoy

JAN 2024

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Many, but not all, of you will be aware of the sad news of the death on 2 January 2024 of our Founding Partner Richard Izard CNZM OBE. Trustee Sir Lockwood Smith, fundraiser Jenni Giblin, and I spent many hours in Richard's company and we will have treasured memories of those times. Richard provided incredible support for the Museum; without his generosity we would not have been able to start, let alone complete, Te Arawhata. Richard was old school New Zealand - loyal, patriotic, considered, and an honourable man who sealed commitments to us with a handshake. I represented the Trust, alongside Sir Lockwood, at Richard's moving funeral service in Taupo on 12 January. We extend our condolences to Richard's family.

A devastating blow came on 7 January with news of the death, in Paris, of our much loved and respected friend and colleague Rosaria Campbell, aged just 33. She was our Project Manager at Te Arawhata and then sadly, was diagnosed with cancer last year. Rosaria was a shining star - calm, competent and able to cope with the many unexpected issues that arise with a project like ours. Her loss is felt keenly by many in New Zealand and in France where she became part of the Le Quesnoy community. We miss Rosaria very much and send our sympathy to her parents, Vicki and Adrian, and her brothers Thornton and Oakley.

Despite the sad start to the year I am hoping that 2024 will bring many good things to Te Arawhata. We are going to build on the solid start made possible by many including Richard and Rosaria. I will report to you in March on the exciting changes proposed to our Trust Board and management structure - some new faces and fresh talent to inject even more energy into our work.



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



Richard Izard



Rosaria Campbell



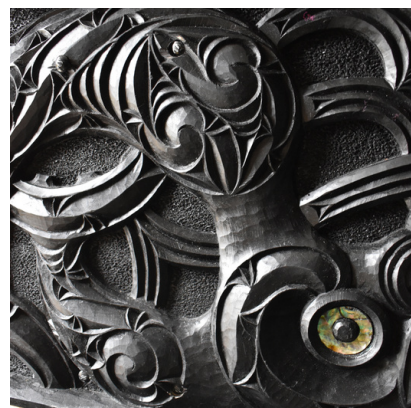
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## COMING UP IN 2024 - THE ALL BLACKS GIFT A BENCH TO TE ARAWHATA



### ME EKE MAI – OUR BENCH IS YOUR BENCH

**On 10 February we are unveiling of a specially carved All Blacks bench which has been donated to Te Arawhata by New Zealand Rugby.**

In 2023 New Zealand Rugby donated three intricately carved benches to France to mark the sporting bond between France and New Zealand during the Rugby World Cup. A fourth bench has now been generously gifted to the NZ Liberation Museum – Te Arawhata. The installation of the bench is yet another symbol of the enduring ties between France and New Zealand. The bench is about community, a taonga (treasured object) with Māori motifs, created at the New Zealand Māori Arts and Crafts Institute (NZMACI) – Ngā Kete Tuku Iho, in Rotorua and it is to be installed in the grounds and unveiled in a special ceremony on 10 February.

At 2:30pm, on 10 February, **Ngāti Rānana, the London Māori club**, will bless the bench with karakia and waiata. **New Zealand Rugby** will formally gift the bench and **Marie-Sophie Lesne, the Mayor of Le Quesnoy**, will also speak on the bonds between New Zealand and the town of Le Quesnoy. The general public are invited to attend the event and be part of this special ceremony. The museum will be open throughout the day for visitors. Following the ceremony refreshments will be served.

At 3:15pm, the Six Nations match, between France and Scotland, will be broadcast at the Te Arawhata.

Our current exhibition “From the Field to the Front” honours and remembers All Blacks who went to war. The exhibition was opened by Dame Patsy Reddy, Chair of New Zealand Rugby, at the museum opening in October last year.





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## PLANS FOR ANZAC DAY AT THE NZ LIBERATION MUSEUM - TE ARAWHATA

Anzac Day is approaching. Please see out programme of events so far. This is a preliminary schedule and while nothing stated below will change, events may be added. Further information will be released over the coming months, but please book your tickets to visit the museum at [nzliberationmuseum.com](http://nzliberationmuseum.com) and let us know if you are visiting by emailing [info@nzliberationmuseum.com](mailto:info@nzliberationmuseum.com).

### **Thursday 25 April 2024**

Museum Open all day  
Museum guided tours  
Town and medieval rampart tours (Tickets available soon)  
Evening drinks at the museum

### **Friday 26 April 2024**

Museum Open all day  
Museum guided tours  
Town and medieval rampart tours (Tickets available soon)

### **Saturday 27 April 2024**

Museum open all day  
Museum guided tours  
Town and medieval rampart tours (Tickets available soon)  
Bus tour of local area (Tickets available soon)  
Official Anzac Day Dinner in conjunction with the Town Hall of Le Quesnoy  
(Tickets available soon)

### **Sunday 28 April 2024**

Museum open all day for visitors with special early opening  
11am: Official Anzac Ceremony in Le Quesnoy hosted by New Zealand Embassy and Town Hall  
Official reception at Le Quesnoy Town Hall  
3pm: Official ceremony at Longueval New Zealand Battlefield Memorial







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## TE ARAWHATA RE-OPENS 31 JANUARY, 2024, AFTER THE WINTER BREAK.



## LE QUESNOY - MEILLEURS VOEUX 2024 BEST WISHES FOR 2024

On 12 January there was a presentation in Le Quesnoy, at the local theatre -Le Théâtre des 3 Chênes. Everyone in town was invited to the event, hosted by Marie Sophie Lesne, Mayor of Le Quesnoy. Held annually, the presentation is a review of 2023 and a preview of plans for 2024. The theatre was full and the evening began with a call for peaceful leadership, as three young locals performed *Imagine* by John Lennon. Then there was a video review of 2023, which of course included coverage of the opening of Te Arawhata. Both Josh and Blandine were interviewed for the video and they did an amazing job of promoting the museum and continuing to secure the museum's place as part of the Le Quesnoy community. It is in French of course, but if you are interested you can watch the entire video at:

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=bErbJbBoFEc&feature=shared>







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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.

# DONATE

This is a charitable project  
that has been entirely  
funded by donations from  
generous supporters.

## THE WEBSITE

For more news and information  
please head to our website at:

<https://nzliberationmuseum.com/>







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## LE QUESNOY RIGHT NOW

Here is a gallery of Le Quesnoy in the middle of winter - it is very cold and very beautiful. This week the temperature has ranged between 0 degrees and -6 degrees!

