



# NZ Remembers

The New Zealand Experience, Le Quesnoy

Newsletter of the New Zealand Memorial Museum Trust - Le Quesnoy

AUGUST 2024

Dear Friends and supporters,

This month we have big news. Our Manager of Te Arawhata, Josh Hansen is moving on to the next chapter in his life and we will miss him. The people of Le Quesnoy will also miss him.

In October 2023 the museum was faced with a sad task. We had to find someone to do the impossible, and step into the shoes of Rosaria Campbell. Rosaria, as you all know, passed away after her courageous struggle with illness. Sometime earlier though, she had informed the Board about two young men from New Zealand who were on their OE and they wanted to volunteer, to help out at the museum. Enter Josh Hansen and Robbie Speakman. Both lawyers and at least one of them (Josh) a French speaker. Long story short, Robbie helped us through to the opening, and beyond, and then continued on his OE, forever a friend of Te Arawhata. And Josh? Well, Josh came to Le Quesnoy and Te Arawhata and didn't leave. With remarkable ability, talent, and grace he stepped into the role of museum Manager.

Josh has seen the museum through the opening, has established the museum in Le Quesnoy and further afield. He has worked long hours, given many speeches, made himself part of the local community, drawn up spread sheets, navigated local bureaucracy, managed the practicalities of keeping the museum building in shape and spent hours working on the stories we are trying to tell at Te Arawhata.

We could not have asked for a more committed Manager to begin the museum's journey. Josh will be leaving Te Arawhata at the end of September, after he has overseen the handover to our new Manager Elizabeth Wratislav, and Jacob Siermans who will be working on marketing and operations. They will of course be joining Blandine Demailly, Cathy Queuniez and Lucie Bétremieux, and together they will make up our core team at the museum, along with our French stagiaires and Kiwi interns.

Elizabeth (Lizzie) and Jacob both bring enormous talent with them, and also excitement about becoming part of the Te Arawhata story and part of the life in Le Quesnoy. But you can read more about them in this newsletter.



I am not going to say goodbye to Josh yet - that's for the September newsletter. For now though, I can say thank you.

*David McLean - Chair  
New Zealand Memorial Museum Trust - Le Quesnoy*



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## Ready to pass the baton - Josh Hansen.

Dear All, Tēnā koutou katoa, Chers tous,

A year ago, I joined this project in awe of the years of hard work, perseverance, and generosity that culminated in the creation of this special place. While participating in the opening events of 11th October, the privilege and responsibility of guiding the museum through its first year was not lost on me, as well as honouring the incredible work Rosaria had already done. I have loved working with all involved in New Zealand and France and thank the Trust for this opportunity and their support.

New Zealanders and the people of Le Quesnoy can be very proud of this place. It has been an honour for me to share in its remarkable story and visitor experience. The best part of each day is witnessing the moments Te Arawhata evokes. Daily meetings with kiwis and French, seeing their reactions, hearing their stories, and watching them connect. These are moving and meaningful moments of affirmation for the museum's purpose and potential.

At the end of September, I will leave the role of Manager and return to New Zealand to pursue the next step in my career. I will take with me the amazing experiences I have had and hope I will continue to be a part of the Te Arawhata and Le Quesnoy community.

In my final two months in Le Quesnoy we will welcome two excellent new team members from New Zealand; our incoming Manager and VSO Marketing and Operations. Alongside our brilliant French team, I am confident they will together take the museum from strength to strength.

I will miss the people of Le Quesnoy greatly. Their warm welcome lived up to the great heights of the reputation the town has garnered over 105 years. I thank Madame le Maire and the municipality for their constant support of the museum. This partnership is a symbol of the very friendship we celebrate. A special mention to Raymonde Dramez, Veronique Coupet and my colleague Blandine Demailly. Their friendship and local wisdom nurtured Te Arawhata through its first year on French soil and me through the wonders of life in France.

The museum tells a remarkable story of our people in the past. Its strength will come from how this comes to life in people today and tomorrow – as they experience the museum and connect with its community. This is just the beginning. I look forward to seeing it grow.

Ngā mihi nui, Josh.





## Introducing Elizabeth “Lizzie” Wratislav - the new Manager of The NZ Liberation Museum - Te Arawhata

Lizzie first experienced the warm welcome of the Quercitains when visiting for the Anzac Day commemorations in 2010. As a young kiwi living abroad, she was moved by the reminders of home and the depth of feeling towards New Zealand expressed by the town and its people all those years on.

Lizzie is excited to make a return to Le Quesnoy as Manager of Te Arawhata, alongside husband Todd and son Isaac. She is looking forward to sharing the story of Le Quesnoy and reconnecting with the French language and culture. A long-time francophile, Lizzie's passion for French began in ballet class and continued through to university level. A year of full immersion in Switzerland as part of an AFS intercultural exchange in 2005 was later followed by two years in Paris where she completed a Master of Museology at the École du Louvre in 2011.

Lizzie joins Te Arawhata from her role as Manager of Interpretation at Tamaki Paenga Hira Auckland War Memorial Museum. A seasoned museum professional, she has worked in institutions across Aotearoa, London and Paris and has broad experience across museum practice. Lizzie has a keen interest in innovative modes of storytelling and is committed to delivering outstanding visitor experiences.

She is looking forward to settling into life at Te Arawhata and exploring Le Quesnoy and its surrounds with her family.



*Todd, Isaac and Lizzie - on their way to Le Quesnoy soon!*



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## OUR CORE TEAM AT TE ARAWHATA

### JACOB SIERMANS - MARKETING AND OPERATIONS

Jacob was born and raised in North Auckland as part of a tightly-knit Kiwi-Dutch family. With tales of bombing and escape from Rotterdam on one side and service in Egypt and Japan on the other, the family's military history has always been important to him. At age 15, he represented the Silverdale RSA on a tour of New South Wales, culminating in marching under the New Zealand flag in the Sydney ANZAC Parade.

Jacob's passion for French language and culture started at Westlake Boys' High School, which led to an exchange with a Parisian lycée followed by a gap year teaching English at the school. Returning to Auckland in 2016, he attended the University of Auckland, graduating in 2021 with a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) and Bachelor of Arts, the latter majoring in French.

Jacob joins Te Arawhata after spending the last three years as a solicitor in New Zealand's premier commercial property law team. He is excited to reconnect with his French and to take on a project so squarely at the intersection of two cultures he loves so much. He is eager to learn more about New Zealand's efforts on the Western Front and hopes to make his own contribution to the story of Le Quesnoy.



### BLANDINE DEMAILLY - EDUCATION

Blandine was born and raised in Lens, Northern France. She developed a keen interest in the English language at a young age and then completed a BA in English and Master's Degree in British Studies at the University of Lille. She lived in England for a year working as a French language assistant in a secondary school.

Blandine discovered Le Quesnoy and its liberation story two years ago through her partner. She took a chance sending a speculative application to the Trust, as working at Te Arawhata seemed like a dream come true for an anglophile and History enthusiast. She moved to beautiful Le Quesnoy and joined the team as a Museum Assistant in late September 2023. She has since been committed to making the museum grow and creating an outstanding visitor experience. Blandine is a skilled translator.

Working with the New Zealand team has been a wonderful experience for Blandine, and one which reaffirms the friendship between France and Aotearoa. Sharing the extraordinary story of the liberation of Le Quesnoy with French visitors and welcoming Kiwis to Te Arawhata is one of her favourite aspects of the job. Getting acquainted with the Kiwi accent and learning more about New Zealand customs has definitely been a highlight as well. She looks forward to visiting Aotearoa one day - where she will be most welcome!





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## OUR CORE TEAM AT TE ARAWHATA (cont.)

### CATHY QUEUNIEZ - RECEPTION

Cathy comes from the Maubeuge area and has a degree in Human Resources. A few years ago, she decided to start over and work in the tourism business as a receptionist. After working in the Sables d'Olonne for eight years, Cathy moved back to Northern France, where she joined the team at Te Arawhata in November 2023.

Cathy and enjoys welcoming visitors from different cultures and it is her warm smile that our visitors see when they arrive at Te Arawhata. In her journey at te Arawhata, Cathy has had to come to terms with all things "Kiwi" has formed a deep understanding of the Le Quesnoy story and New Zealand's place in its history.

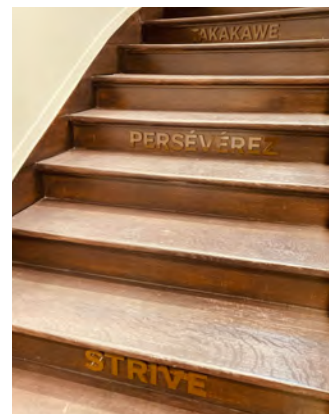


### LUCIE BÉTREMIEUX - INTERN, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Lucie is completing a one-year internship with the museum as she studies for a diploma in marketing. Luce is from the nearby town of Artres.

Her work focusses on local community engagement and events, photography, and working on the museum's Instagram account.

In 2021 she spent six months in Australia working where she developed her passion for learning English and travel. She is also a big sports fan. She has enjoyed welcoming kiwi visitors each day and connecting the museum with the local community.





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## DID YOU KNOW?

### PARIS 2024 - THE GAMES OF THE XXXIII OLYMPIAD

You will be watching the NZ Olympians, and soon the Paralympians arriving in Paris, all of them wearing a beautiful pounamu pendant. These taonga Māori are gifts to the teams from Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, a gift they have given to our Olympians and Paralympians for the last twenty years. This year, it is with pride that we, at Te Arawhata, explain the moving link between the story of Le Quesnoy and the taonga. The design of the pendants is dedicated to the fallen soldiers of Le Quesnoy. As a part of honouring these actions, the carvers designed the taonga to represent 'A Roimata' meaning tears of sadness and grief.

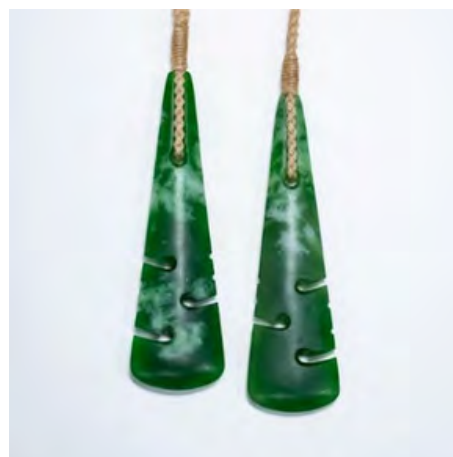
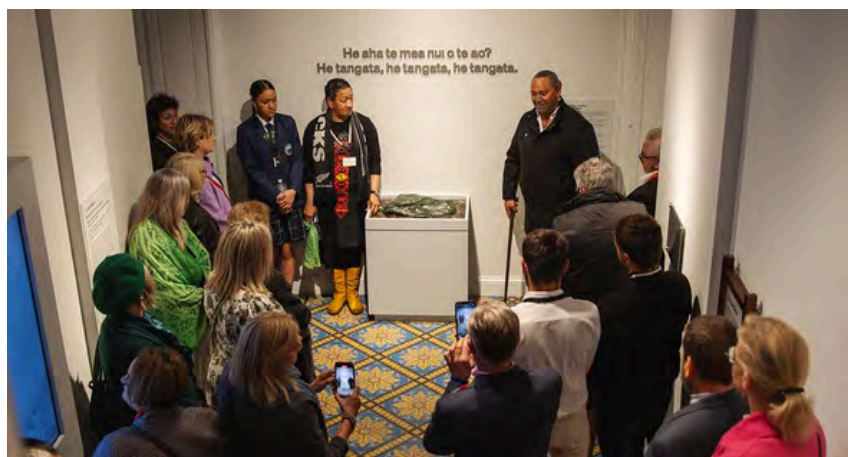
It took Ngāti Māhaki carvers from Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio a year to create the pieces which are made from Tahutahi pounamu, or "snowflake jade". Tahutahi pounamu is one of the rarest types of pounamu. Found only on the Cascade Plateau, south of Haast, the rich and intense green stone has a striking white snowflake effect. Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu has never given permission to outside parties for the collection and sale of the distinctive pounamu from this region until now. Fayne Robinson and Rānui Ngārimu designed the pendants, while Ngāi Tahu Pounamu carvers Caleb Robinson and Tutoko Wallace hand carved them with help from Ben Lakin from Art Fetiche. They were bound by Christina Tamayo and Chantal Tumahai from Ngāi Tahu Pounamu. The pendants are presented to each athlete and team support member as they are welcomed to the Olympic village.

At Te Arawhata we are hugely aware of how important these connections to Aotearoa New Zealand are when you are on the other side of the world. Our Pounamu taonga, gifted to the museum by Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae, greets our visitors and invites their touch, and reminds us everyday that The New Zealand Liberation Museum - Te Arawhata, is bound to home.

To watch the full story of the pounamu taonga go to our Youtube channel:

<https://youtu.be/8XoJn2PxmJ8>

**We share the video courtesy of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae**





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# ANNOUNCING OUR GIVEALITTLE CAMPAIGN

## **Extraordinary generosity.**

We have an extremely generous donor who is prepared to match funding of \$50,000 for Te Arawhata, Le Quesnoy, France. Our donor has been inspired to make this offer following the presentation and blessing of 550 rare Tahutahi "snowflake" pounamu pendants to our Olympians and Paralympians (Paris 2024).

### **How this works:**

Until 8 September, when the Olympics and the Paralympics end, you can donate to the Givealittle page. Here is the link:

<https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/nz-liberation-museum-te-arawhata-france-join>

This link takes you to the page where you will find options to "DONATE" to match the \$50,000 and, there is also a button to "SHARE".

Please share with your whānau, friends, colleagues, and please share on your platforms. You have our appreciation whichever button you choose to push.

Jenni Giblin, from FundingHQ, and Fundraiser for the Trust, says this is an incredible opportunity for Te Arawhata to boost funds and also to increase the family of Te Arawhata supporters.

If we succeed with this campaign the final \$100,000 will have a profound impact on the ongoing running of Te Arawhata.

**The campaign runs for the duration of the Olympics and Paralympics (8 Sept, 2024).**

Special thanks to the wonderful people at Givealittle.

**givealittle**  
POWERED BY  perpetual guardian



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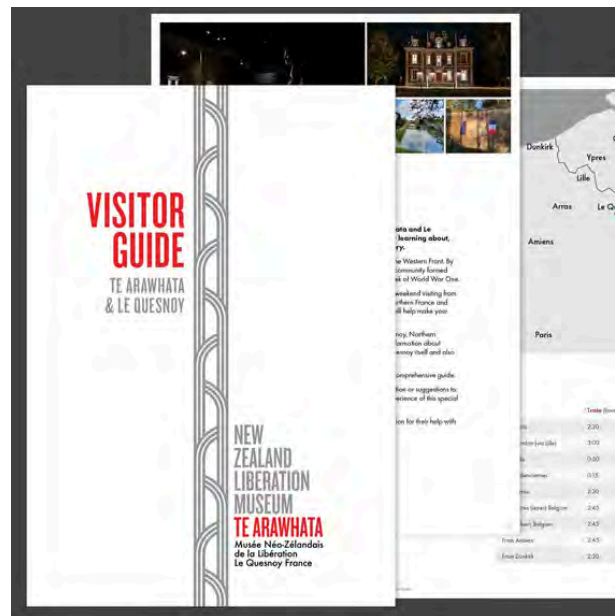
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## THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO HELP TE ARAWHATA

### THE VISITOR GUIDE UPDATE

The first update of the Visitor guide is about to happen. Go to the guide and you will find an email included, and this is where you can send your suggestions and helpful additions.

[https://nzliberationmuseum.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/MT0129-\\_\\_-Guide-to-Le-Quesnoy-Booklet.pdf](https://nzliberationmuseum.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/MT0129-__-Guide-to-Le-Quesnoy-Booklet.pdf)



### SCHOOL VISITS

For an unforgettable experience...  
If your local high school is going to France or thinking of an overseas study tour for their students, please let them know about Te Arawhata. A recent tour to Le Quesnoy and Te Arawata by the students of Woodford House Hawke's Bay is covered on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/tearawhata/>

For more information:

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



### SPREAD THE WORD - SHARE OUR PLATFORMS

Website: <https://nzliberationmuseum.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/tearawhata/>

Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/te\\_arawhata\\_nzlm/](https://www.instagram.com/te_arawhata_nzlm/)

Linkedin: <https://nz.linkedin.com/company/nz-liberation-museum>

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/@NZLiberationMuseum-TeArawhata>







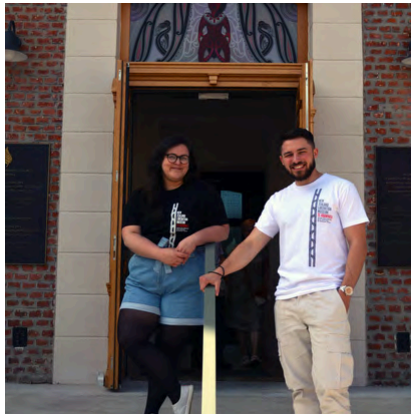
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## TE ARAWHATA MERCHANDISE



### A NEW FASHION SHOOT!

We got the crew at Te Arawhata to have a bit of a fashion shoot for us so we can show you just how wonderful the t-shirts and caps look in sunny Le Quesnoy. The hot weather will be back in New Zealand soon and a Te Arawhata t-shirt and cap is just the uniform you need for your summer wardrobe.

#### Stylish and it supports our museum!

This a special offer for our New Zealand supporters as our shop at the museum is very popular, but a bit far away for New Zealand shoppers.

The items in NZ are:

Black t-shirts

White T-shirts (SOLD OUT in NZ)

Long sleeved merino tops - for chilly summer evenings.

Black caps

White caps

#### Start your Christmas shopping early!

Please visit our website where you can select your item and size. Fill out an order form. After that you will be emailed to arrange payment and shipping.

**Go to: <https://nzliberationmuseum.com/te-arawhata-merchandise/>**