



Dear friends and supporters

It is timely to remember that the month of October is significant in our history because of events 107 years ago in Belgium. After a well-prepared but bloody attack on Messines Ridge in June 1917, the New Zealanders were in the Ypres salient. In an attack on 4 October at Gravenstafel Spur, nearly five hundred New Zealanders were killed. Despite this, gains were made which led to an overconfidence at headquarters about the strength of German resistance. On 12 October the NZ Division attacked again at Bellevue Spur, Passchendaele. The attack was advanced in deep mud, up a slope, against entrenched enemy positions and concrete bunkers. Because of the mud the artillery was unable to provide a sufficient barrage, and the barbed wire hadn't been cut. The result was the darkest day in New Zealand's history; no ground was gained and, among our 3300 casualties, nearly a third were killed. Four months later the NZ Division was withdrawn from the line before being rushed back into action in late 1918 to help stop the enemy advance, and then to begin their nine month, 240 kilometre march to Le Quesnoy and the end of the war.

The First World War still reverberates today. It has been announced that King Charles has approved twenty-two battle honours to Te Hokowhita a Tū, which is the motto and collective name for both The New Zealand Māori Contingent, which served in Gallipoli and Egypt, and The New Zealand Māori (Pioneer) Battalion which served on the Western Front, during WW1. This award corrects a long-standing oversight and finally gives recognition to the huge contribution made by these troops who were such a unique and important part of the NZ contingent. Among the battle honours awarded is the "Battle of the Sambre", which included the taking of Le Quesnoy, and two honours not awarded to any other New Zealand infantry unit.

The First anniversary of The NZ Liberation Museum - Te Arawhata



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

The opening ceremony seems like an age ago and so much has happened since the doors officially opened. We have had many people through the doors: school groups, tour groups, visitors from New Zealand, France, Belgium, the UK, Europe and the world over. I will leave it to the museum staff to fill you in on recent events. There is, however, one thing that has struck me as we approach this milestone, and it is that the visitor experience at Te Arawhata continues to evoke an emotional response from those who visit. Watching the videos that appear on our social media platforms and seeing how moved visitors are, sometimes to tears, makes me very grateful for all the work that has been done to bring the project to life. This is the power of having our stories told. It is good to be part of something that means so much. Please continue to stay engaged with us, spread the word about the Museum, and thank you as always for your support.



NZ Remembers

The New Zealand Experience, Le Quesnoy

Newsletter of the New Zealand Memorial Museum Trust - Le Quesnoy

OCTOBER 2024

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT TE ARAWHATA?

As summer comes to a close, neither the good weather nor the busyness of Te Arawhata and Le Quesnoy diminished in September. The month began with the annual "Corrida" 10km run through the ramparts of Le Quesnoy. The museum was well represented by our outgoing director, Josh. Next came 4 September and the 80th anniversary of the WW2 liberation of Le Quesnoy. The town's commemorations included khaki jeeps, stars and stripes galore, and sticks of chewing gum - a memorial to the gifts of the liberating Americans. A first commemorative event for newcomers Lizzie Wratislav, (the incoming Manager of Te Arawhata) and myself. We also welcomed several group visits, including groups from high schools and polytechnics within the region.

The local tennis centre played host to the Fête des Géants, with more than 30 regional "giants" proudly displaying the heritage of the town, associations, and people of the area.



Josh hosted Lizzie and me on a visit to meet our friends at the Australian, Canadian, and Commonwealth War Graves Commission visitor centres, as well as the tunnels of Carrière Wellington.

Under the glorious Le Quesnoy sun, we were treated to an extraordinary concert of poetry and synthesisers by local Quercitains, "la Compagnie 2L". Anne and Guick's treatment of Katherine Mansfield's words before the museum was a real highlight.

Then, over the weekend of the 21st and 22nd September, we threw open the doors of the museum for the annual European Heritage Days (Journées Européennes du Patrimoine) to great numbers. There were tours of the museum and the ramparts, led by our local friends, Grégory Chermeux, Raymonde Dramez and Christian Basuyau. This event coincided with the annual Dairy Festival (Fête du Lait), which always makes a splash in town.

A very busy month in Le Quesnoy to mark the departure of Josh and the arrival of the next generation of Kiwi-Quercitains.

Jacob Siermans, Project Manager - Operations and Marketing





NZ Remembers

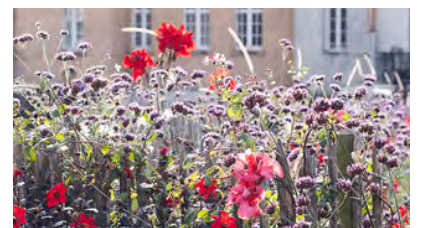
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GETTING READY FOR OUR FIRST ANNIVERSARY

From October 7 we are having a series of posts and stories to mark Te Arawhata's first anniversary. There will be videos and recaps of the opening, and the year that has been. Please keep an eye on all our usual channels for these. In the meantime here are some images to remind us all of the very moving and wonderful events that surrounded the opening of The NZ Liberation Museum - Te Arawhata 11-12 October 2023.





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THERE WAS A PARTY

A party was held in the grounds of the museum to farewell Josh, who has now departed French shores, and to welcome Lizzie and her family, Todd and Isaac, to their new home and roles in Le Quesnoy. And so the Te Arawhata whānau expands and contracts as it always has and as it always will - the friendship constant. We wish Josh well in his future endeavours. We wish Lizzie and family a successful tenure. We also send our thanks to Blandine, Jacob, Cathy and all staff on the ground, as they continue to to keep Te Arawhata moving. It is also lovely seeing the faces of the locals who become increasingly familiar to us, as they help make Te Arawhata a real part of the Le Quesnoy community. Merci a tout! Thank you for looking after our people.





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THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO HELP TE ARAWHATA

THE VISITOR GUIDE UPDATE

Don't forget about the visitor guide. Go to the guide and you will find an email included, and this is where you can send your suggestions and helpful additions. We update the guide regularly.

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.

For more information:
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/
- Linkedin: <https://nz.linkedin.com/company/nz-liberation-museum>
- Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/@NZLiberationMuseum-TeArawhata>





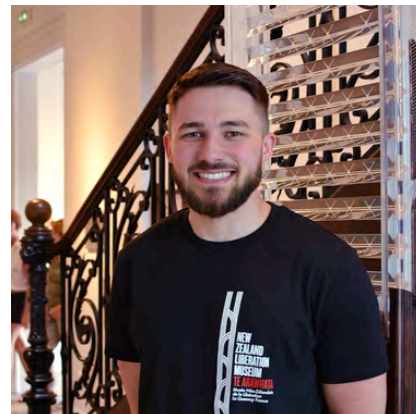
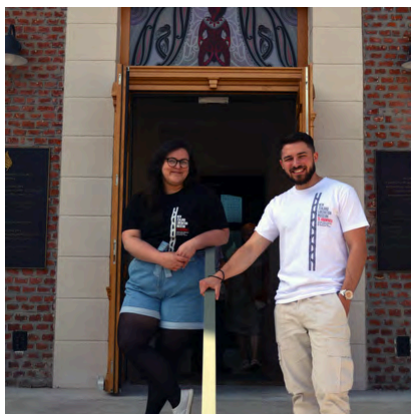
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TE ARAWHATA MERCHANDISE FOR SALE IN NZ



STYLISH AND IT SUPPORTS OUR MUSEUM!

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.

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/>