



New Zealand  
Memorial Museum Trust  
– Le Quesnoy, France  
PO Box 90345  
Auckland 1143  
New Zealand

18 February 2021

Mayor John Leggett  
Marlborough District Council  
PO Box 443  
BLENHEIM 7240

Dear John

**RE: New Zealand Museum & Visitor Centre, Le Quesnoy, France**

Following on from my presentation to the Rural and Provincial Sector meeting in Wellington late last year, I would like to take this opportunity to reinforce the importance of the Le Quesnoy museum project to our country and to the memory of our soldiers, who fought and perished on the battlefields of Europe in two World Wars.

The achievement of our troops in liberating the town of Le Quesnoy just one week before the end of the First World War is one of true Kiwi courage and ingenuity. It is also a testament to their dedication and sacrifice. The opportunity we have through the Museum & Visitor Centre project to tell this story means that we can look back, remember and reflect on the events of the past but also look forward and consider how we might ensure war can be avoided in the future.

Our project continues to move forward. We are working closely with the French government on the project and are currently having discussions about a potential partnership. We have also been successful in the last six months with our New Zealand fundraising effort from private donors. This is despite the challenges that Covid-19 has thrown at us all in 2020.

As mentioned in my presentation, we have recently approved the Internal Experience Design Brief for the Museum & Visitor Centre prepared by New Zealand museum experts Lily Frederikse, Tim Walker and Karl Johnstone. The Feasibility Study prepared by French company, Lamaya, was signed off last year and our Māori Advisory Group has provided a Māori cultural framework to inform the overall visitor experience.

PATRON Rt. Hon. Helen Clark ONZ SSI PC  
TRUSTEES Rt. Hon. Sir Donald McKinnon (NZ OBE) (Chair), Maj. (Ret.) Mark Hall  
Britson (Buddy) Mikaere, Rt. Hon. Sir Lockwood Smith KCMG, Jade Dobson

Charities Commission No: CC54965 | [info@nzwmm.org.nz](mailto:info@nzwmm.org.nz) | [www.nzwmm.org.nz](http://www.nzwmm.org.nz)



In short, we are in a good position to proceed with the project's initiation in 2021.

We would like to invite you and your Council to be part of this significant project. I wish to request that you consider a funding commitment to the Le Quesnoy Museum & Visitor Centre project as part of your Long-Term Plan process. Some councils are contributing funds based on \$1 per resident in their city or district. I ask you to consider doing the same.

The Museum & Visitor Centre at Le Quesnoy will be a most appropriate reminder to our children, their children, and grandchildren of an event they can contemplate, and solemnly praise and acknowledge the bravery of those ordinary kiwis who gave their all.

Thank you in anticipation of your valued support.

Kind regards,



Rt Hon Sir Don McKinnon ONZ GCVO  
Chairman  
New Zealand Memorial Museum Trust

70-510

PATRON Rt Hon Helen Clark ONZ SSI PC  
TRUSTEES Rt Hon Sir Donald McKinnon ONZ GCVO PC (Chair), Maj. (Ret.) Mark Hall,  
Britson (Buddy) Mikaere, Rt Hon Sir Lockwood Smith KNZM, Jude Dobson

Charities Commission No: CC54965 | [info@nzwmm.org.nz](mailto:info@nzwmm.org.nz) | [www.nzwmm.org.nz](http://www.nzwmm.org.nz)

