



2013

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La Gazette

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Presidents' Greeting

Bonjour à tous et une bonne année 2013!

What a wonderful beginning to 2013! I hope you have all been able to share the summer days with family and friends and enjoy the long summer days.

It was a treat to have rain this week to freshen the plants and promote the further growth.

However, it does seem to have been a mixed bag and my thoughts have been with our Australian families who have had the worst of the storms and have suffered the consequences of the drought with horrific fires which have devastated vast areas.

From our windows we could see and smell the smoke from the West Melton fire and heard the fire engines as they rushed to fires closer to home along the Eyre River.

As La Gazette is published today and we enjoy celebrating our National Day I know that some of our family will be at Waitangi.

It is exciting to know that after months of planning Gilles and Micheline Fournat have finally arrived in New Zealand from Surgeres and are now on their journey throughout New Zealand. They have been most appreciative of the offers of hospitality. We are looking forward to sharing time with them in the South Island later in March. There is a full programme planned which includes places they wish to explore and family they are keen to make contact with.

Looking forward to the year ahead: in May the Annual General Meeting will commence in Christchurch on May 9th and re convene in Wellington on 8th June.

Do watch out for further information on the website www.libeau-family.org.

This year it will begin with the meeting Saturday afternoon followed by a dinner.

On Sunday morning there will be a coffee morning/workshop time.

In previous years this format has worked well at Cambridge and Wellington and provides an opportunity for the North Island family to contribute and meet each other.

If you are keen to be involved in the planning contact kevin.clark@libeau-family.org

Looking further ahead the biennial celebration of 'Akaroa French Fest' will be held in Akaroa during October. This is a fantastic weekend and commences on Friday evening with a Street Party. More information will follow and can be found on the Akaroa website. The re-enactment includes descendants of the French and German families who arrived on the Comte de Paris in 1840. The next celebration will be in 2015 which will commemorate 175 years since the arrival of the Comte de Paris.

Many of our senior members of the family are now celebrating birthdays in their nineties. What a wonderful age and what great stories they have to tell! We would love to have some of their stories to share and record in La Gazette as others enjoy reading them.

Kindest regards

Patricia

Births, Passings, Marriages and New Members

Births: None Advised

Marriages: None advised

New Members: No new members

Gilles et Micheline

Our very supportive cousins, Gilles and Micheline Fournat from Surgeres in France, are currently in New Zealand, staying with family members as they tour and at time of writing are in the winterless north with Barbara Linton at Paihia. They are working their way south, leaving Wellington for Picton on 27th February, travelling around the South Island before returning to France on 19th March.

The Hermione

An interesting article received from Michele Libaud, France, in which we are very interested, especially those who saw the very early construction during our tour in 1999.

Hermione, Liberty Frigate !

In Rochefort (Charente-Maritime area), since 1997, in the old maritime arsenal, a team of passionate people have undertaken the construction of the frigate "Hermione" which allowed La Fayette to cross the Atlantic Ocean to get back to America.

In July 2012, Rochefort has celebrated "the Hermione" : the launching of the hull of the Hermione and its launching on the Charente river. Three festive days sharing history, lights, adventure, music and emotion, to make of this launching a magic festival! A green and white flag on top of the sun's door, main entrance of the Arsenal, indicates that a boat is getting constructed.

We could admire a nautical parade of old sailing ships from the transporter bridge until the "Quai de la Liberation" (on the way to Tonny-Charente), alongside the Royal Corderie.

Many thousands of persons attended the opening of the "ship gate", the departure of the hull of the Hermione, and wanderings on the Charente river, and its mooring for a night in front of the Royal Corderie.

It was an honor that the "Belem" was stationed in Rochefort's harbour for this big festival. It is the oldest three-master in Europe in state of navigation and the second biggest sailing-ship remaining in France. It is used now as a school-boat for young sailors. The "Belem" is classified "historical monument" since 1984.

The final launching of the Hermione for Boston is expected for 2015. Now three masts and sail have to get fixed. A big job: already one mast is fixed (several tons and close to 25 meters high). Twenty-four kilometers of ropes are necessary to fix the sail!

After a look to the aerial photos, you may desire to see the Hermione, unless you prefer to wait until 2015 for the final launching!

Michele.

Out of space. More of these photos in next Gazette



Our Senior Members

Nola Dick has reminded us that Leslie Oswald Norrish is now 98 (born 5/7/1914). Les now lives in the Waterlea Rest Home in Blenheim. His brother is Edward (Ted) Melville Norrish (born 21/12/1925) is a just a youngster at 87 and lives in Nelson.

Olive Braddock

Just a few words and photos from Mum's birthday celebrations in July.

Supplied by Carol Ward

Olive Braddock (nee Heyward) turned 90 and celebrated in style with family and friends in July 2012. From as far away as Townsville, Mackay and Hivesville in Queensland, and Auckland, Hawkes Bay and Mosgeil, over 80 joined together for the great occasion. All the siblings were able to travel from Christchurch and Nelson to be together on the day. Olive lives with her daughter Carol in Otaki, 80km north of Wellington on the Kapiti Coast, and together with son Graham and their partners, they catered a luncheon at the local Presbyterian Church where Olive is a member.

Many family contributed to the celebrations - one grandson grew the flowers for the table, another made the cake, a grand daughter and great grand daughter developed the "slide show" and the great grandchildren also helped with table decorations. As many as could helped set up the hall and serve the meal, making it a true family effort to honour a very special person in their lives. Speeches were made by siblings, great grand children and many friends who have been involved in Olive's busy life. The day was one which provided Olive and those who shared with her many great memories to treasure.

The photos show Olive cutting the cake with help from your granddaughter and great granddaughters and the second of her siblings: Gordon and Ross Heyward, Joyce Widgery, Olive and Grace Heyward.



Ken Wright

Tribute at Ken's 90th birthday celebration 26.01.13 Composed by his daughter Morgan.

We're gathered here from near and far
To honour you, our dear Papa.

What a gathering --What a man
You're awesome and amazing.

You've shared your skills, you've given your love,
You're kind and generous too
And for close on 80 years you've danced that old soft shoe.

Rhythm is clearly in your bones
And music in your soul
Your magic feet and unique style
Has spread that beat over many a mile.

They say that groove is in your heart
And yours is like a song
Beating out its rhythm
while we just hum along

So... This is your stage
And we are your fans
We applaud your life as around you we stand.

We shout encore (crowd yells encore)
We shout bravo (crowd yells bravo)
We shout hip hip hooray (crowd repeat)

90 years is quite an act
We all here love you
And that's a fact.

Happy birthday Dad.



Ken in his tap dancing gear with a former pupil.



Ken in action

Rita and Douglas White 60th

Wedding Anniversary

Supplied by Heather Libeau-Dow

On 17th of June, 2012, friends and family gathered at Clearwater Resort, Christchurch, to celebrate the 60th wedding anniversary of Douglas and Rita (nee Methereil) White.

Douglas is the youngest child of Clemence Marie (nee Clarke) White, the granddaughter of Joseph Clemence Libeau Junior.

Douglas and Rita were married at St Ninians Church, Riccarton Road, Christchurch on the 19th June 1952.

The celebration was a superb gathering of friends, aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews and many grandchildren from both Douglas and Rita's family.

All there had a great catch up while celebrating an admirable milestone for a wonderful and loving couple.



19th June 1962



17th June 2012

Plea from France

Just a reminder of Alain's request sent earlier. (copy below) I am not sure if Alain has been successful to date. (waiting for a reply to confirm current position). If you can help him please e-mail him. Alain's e-mail address is alain.boussiron@orange.fr

Dear cousins

We are writing to ask you for advice & help with the following problem:

Our grandson, Baptiste, 22, is at present studying International Business Marketing in a school of Commerce, INSEEC, in Bordeaux. In October he will begin his fifth & final year, at the end of which he has to again find an internship (training course) abroad.

In the summer holidays (European) of 2010 he was a marketing intern (trainee) for 2 months in London, in a luxury goods shop (Lalique crystalware). In the summer of 2011, he had a training period of 2 months in Bali in humanitarian aid for orphans.

At present (summer 2012) he is in Santiago (Chile) for 4 months as an intern in charge of contacting clients & following up the transactions in a German international transport firm, DHL.

As his final exams take place mid-April 2013, he must find an internship for 4 months from May 2013. We thought of New Zealand as it is an English-speaking country (Baptiste speaks English), and because your economy is more robust than ours. Moreover, we have told him how great the people are and what a wonderful country it is!

Do you think that Baptiste could find a firm in NZ (in industry, agriculture or tourism) prepared to take him on as an intern for 4 months? Among your connections, would you be able to suggest people you know & give us addresses? If you need further information or details, please let us know. Baptiste could send you a CV (résumé) & a letter of motivation in support of his application.

Another question: is it easy to find student accommodation for a few months? He would accept a flat-share.

If you can't suggest anything, don't worry, it's not a real problem; he will try his luck in Australia or the U.S.

Affectionately yours,

Alain

A Trip to France

Anne West September 2012.

LIBEAU RELATIVES PAST AND PRESENT

A trip to France in June was the perfect opportunity to meet Libeau relatives with whom I had been corresponding, and to visit some of the places which have featured in my genealogy research. Our family tree expanded considerably since last November: Francis Fournat discovered the birth of Magdelaine Chauvet, Joseph Libeau's first wife; and I found the family of Clémence Rosalie Gendrot, another 'Comte de Paris' immigrant who was to become the wife of Joseph Lucien Libeau.

We travelled through the Sarthe region, home of Clémence's Gendrot and Brière ancestors, stopping at her birthplace - the small village of Torcé-en-Vallée, where we visited the 16th century church of Notre Dame de Torcé. An ancient dolmen nearby was the ideal place for a picnic lunch, and for the children to play. My travelling companions were daughter Lauren and grand-daughters Brianna (3 years) and Olivia (18 months).

Gilles and Micheline Fournat very kindly hosted us at Surgères, and with them we visited Rochefort and met Michel and Michelle, also Alain and Annick. We enjoyed wonderful French hospitality and ate delicious French food. The Charente-style mussels were the best I have ever tasted, and the Merlu (fish) which Gilles cooked for us in an amazing long pot was *délicieux*. I was thrilled to find I could converse with these cousins in French, they spoke so carefully and slowly in consideration of my limited ability! Next we stayed with friends at Nantes, where of course we had to take small girls for a ride on the elephant, and to visit playgrounds and parks. But there was also time to see the church of Saint Donatien, where many generations of our Libeau ancestors were baptised, married and buried. Since returning to New Zealand I have spent many more hours within the French Departmental Archives, a wonderful on-line resource. There I have enjoyed tracing various family lines, in villages throughout the Loire regions. I am recording the French branches of my family tree, this is a work-in-progress, you can find details of Libeau and Gendrot ancestors at <http://gw0.geneanet.org/annerachel>



Left photo: Michel, Brianna, Olivia, Gilles and Anne at the river Charente, Rochefort
Right Photo: Olivia, Anne, Micheline, Brianna, Lauren

Subscriptions

Thank you for those members who have sent in their outstanding subs. I would also thank those who pointed out that they had paid but I had omitted to mark as paid. I accept a smack on the hand for that.

However there are a considerable number of you still in arrears. . If you are one of the outstanding and wish to still receive your newsletter, please send your remittance to Bruce Fuller at 25 Hamel lane, Kaiapoi 7630 or make payment direct to our bank account: BNZ 020842 0171869 00. Don't forget, if you are paying direct put your name and if possible society number with your payment.

For the last two years, your committee decided to cease sending "La Gazette" and cancel website accessibility to non-financial members and will do so again this year. This could be your last "La Gazette".

Ensure you don't lose contact with the society by paying your subs now.

Bruce Fuller (treasurer)

Message from our Webmaster

Richard Warlow who is our industrious webmaster (and family member) advises that around 50 members get e-mail communications that includes website updates and other late notices. If you are not getting these, please advise Richard (and our secretary) of your current e-mail address. Contact addresses are at the end of this newsletter.

Richard also advises that he has launched the Society on Facebook. He requests that you "like us" on <http://www.facebook.com/Libeu.Family> Please check this out. A chance to have your say and discuss hot topics!

Richard has also advised of an interesting website that has paper clippings from the Akaroa Mail and Banks Peninsula Advertiser (1877-1920). The link (searching Libeau) holds 1467 clippings and can be found at <http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/cgi-bin/paperspast?> The full link has been added to our website under links.

Editors' Reminder

Help!!!

Again we ask for help.

Although a few articles have come in, thank you, we are at the stage where we do not have any more reserves for future newsletters. Please get pen to paper, fingers to keyboard and send in some stories/info etc.

Thanks for those gazette contributions that we have received. The editors would still love to hear from you with interesting little tidbits for our readers' enjoyment, ie. family histories/anecdotes, travel (especially in France), photos, etc.

With Gilles and Micheline in New Zealand, I am sure there will be opportunities for stories and photo's from those of us who have enjoyed their company during their travel around our country.

We wish you all a very happy and prosperous 2013.

The Editors

Alliance Francais

N.B.

Alliance Francaise has a new home in Christchurch. Now at 913 Colombo Street. Also the French film festival commences 28th February at Northlands Hoyts. Brochures available from the new Alliance rooms.

Committee Contacts

Chairperson	Patricia Stoneman Ph (03) 312 6555 2 Chain Road Road Ohoka cdpstoneman@xtra.co.nz	Secretary	Leone Fuller Ph (03) 327 2829 25 Hamel Lane Kaiapoi 7630 leonef@ihug.co.nz
Minutes Secretary	Bruce Clark Ph (03) 942 1702 7 Mahars Road Christchurch 8013 diana-bruceclark@paradise.net.nz	Treasurer	Bruce Fuller Ph (03) 327 2829 25 Hamel Lane Kaiapoi 7630 brucef@ihug.co.nz
Northern Nrth Island	Bethel Clark Ph 027 282 0765 bethel@xtra.co.nz	South Canterbury Rep	Desiree McKenzie Ph (03)689 8872 deay@xtra.co.nz
Central North Island	Jocelyn Benefield Ph (06) 765 5900 jocelyn.ian@xtra.co.nz	Webmaster	Richard Warlow webmaster@libeau-family.org
Southern Nrth Island	Kevin Clark Ph(04)3892706 kevin_clark@xtra.co.nz (contains underscore after Kevin)	France	alain.boussiron@orange.fr
Editors	Leone et Bruce Fuller Ph(03)3272829 25 Hamel Lane Kaiapoi 7630 brucief@ihug.co.nz		

