

# **SEJOUR FRANCE DEUX MILLE SEPT (2007)**

**NEWSLETTER 1.**

**MARCH 2007**

**Bonjour All**

**Welcome to this the first newsletter for the group travelling to France in September.**

**Firstly everything is now starting to fall into place and as it is just under 6 months till we assemble in Rochefort and thought communication needs to be increased. I want to ensure everyone who is planning to meet in France at least receives a communication from the Libeau family travel committee.**

We are still accepting registrations and the current confirmed travel party is as follows:

- Bruce and Leone Fuller
- Patricia and Carl Stoneman
- Dr Niel and Judith Wright
- Merv and Phyllis Smith
- Geoffrey and Jillian Smith
- Wayne and Carol Smith
- Norman and Elaine Clark
- Bruce and Diana Clark
- Stuart and Lisa Clark
- Andrew and William Clark
- John and Valerie Dignan
- Kevin Clark and partner
- Julie and Ken Hurst
- Bethel Clark and Danny Bracks
- Linda and John Sutherland
- John Breitmeyer
- Mike and Bev Wilson
- A & Stephanie Le Lievre
- Rosalie Hepi & Pauleen Gray(Australia)
- Jocelyn, Ian and Olivia Benefield
- Vaughan, Leigh, Leighton and Cameron McEwen

**Total Travel Party Confirmed = 44 persons**

Any other family members that are not on this list that need to be especially if accommodation is required please register prior to 14 April as following this date we cannot ensure accommodation with the group. Also any family members arriving in France from anywhere else in the world then please can they contact me as soon as possible as we need to understand the size of the group attending functions in France.

## **Planned Draft Programme**

### **Comte de Paris Group – Rochefort ‘Patriomoine en Lumiere’**

**Friday 14 Sept**

**1100 – 1400 Hrs**

Registrations at Hotel De –Ville (TBC) as Public Buildings closed 12-2pm

Following Registration Book in to Hotel Les Remparts Hotel

NB: We have booked 18 twin rooms and 2 family rooms.

Cost 82.30 Euros per night for 2 persons including breakfast

Cost 110.80 Euros per night for 2 adults and 2 children including breakfast

**1445 Hrs**

Assemble to walk to La Corderie Royale

**1500 –1700 Hrs**

Guided Tour in English through La Corderie Royale (French family to confirm)

**1715 -1900 Hrs**

Happy Hour and welcome of Tour Party and meeting French family at Hotel Les Remparts

**1900 -2200 Hrs**

Visiting a Brassiere of Rochefort to taste local cuisine. (French family to confirm) Approximate cost 30 Euro per person.

NB. RWC England play South Africa 2100 hrs @ St Denis

**Saturday 15 Sept**

**0900 Hrs**

Assemble Tour Party and French family at hotel

**0915 Hrs**

Commence family guided tour of Rochefort visiting the market, la Maison Pierre Loti, Le Jardin de Retours, Le chantier, de l Hermione and other landmarks of the town

**1300 Hrs**

Lunch informal at an agreed venue

NB: RWC 1300 Hrs All Blacks play Repechage 1 at Lyon Pool C

Post lunch, afternoon free - make own arrangements

**1700 Hrs**

Mayoral Reception

**1900 Hrs**

Brassiere Dinner venue TBA cost 30 Euro per person. (To be confirmed)

**2130 Hrs**

View ‘Patriomoine en Lumiere’ on foot

**Sunday 16 Sept**

**0900 Hrs**

Boat trip with Picnic Lunch going down the Charente River, Ile d’ Aix, Fouras, Fort Boyard, Ile d’ Oleron Cost 32 Euros + lunch cost.

If boat trip not possible then contingency plan a bus tour to Royan, Brouage, Talmont, Port des Barques

**1700 Hrs**

Conversionne and Evening meal at Rochefort restaurant – Farewell for Comte de Paris Tour members

**Monday 17 Sept**

**0900 Hrs**

Comte de Paris tour party disassembles.

**1000 Hrs**

All tour party book out of Hotel Les Remparts.

**17- 21 Sept**

**Monday - Friday**

From this time remaining Libeau family members are free to explore the Charente Maritime region or pursue the following recommended options.

Option 1: Barge trip 3-5 days to Cognac

Option 2: Return to Paris and visit the Louvre, Eiffel Tower, quai Branly.

Option 3: Visit Bordeaux

Option 4: Visit Poitiers, Nantes and / or Futuroscope  
 Option 5: Visit the Loire Valley and view at least 3 Chateaux's  
 If staying within the region suggest using Gites for accommodation!  
 Suggest we may like to form various groups and this will be booked once  
 I know everyone's plans for the 5 days. 100 + days advance booking is  
 sufficient time as normal standard 60 days.

### *Libeau Descendants (NZ) Inc. - La Rochelle*

#### **Friday 21 Sept**

**1700 –1800 Hrs** Libeau family members assemble at Les Remparts Hotel in Rochefort for a Happy Hour and to meet members of French family at Hotel  
 We have booked 13 twin rooms and 2 family rooms for this stay  
**1830 Hrs** Buffet meal at Hotel Les Remparts  
**2100 Hrs** RWC France plays Ireland at St Denis.

#### **Saturday 22 Sept**

**0900 Hrs** Assemble in hotel foyer and meet coach  
**0915 Hrs** Depart for La Rochelle Tourist office  
**1000 Hrs** Carriage ride of old heritage La Rochelle  
 (To be confirmed by French family)  
**1200 Hrs** Lunch at a Harbour-View Old Port restaurant  
**1500Hrs** Explore contemporary La Rochelle on foot.  
**1700 Hrs** Conversionne and happy hour –NZ tour party host French family  
**1830 Hrs** Rochefort venue to be confirmed by French family

#### **Sunday 23 Sept**

**0900 Hrs** Family Day at Jeanne and Beduin Mazet La Maison  
**0915 Hrs** Assemble in hotel foyer and meet bus coach  
 Depart for La Rochelle Tourist office  
 Visit Emilie Libeau's grave and her former residence  
**1100 Hrs** Arrive at Mazet's for lunch and we are hosted by our French family  
**1700 Hrs** RWC All Blacks play Scotland at Edinburgh  
**1900 Hrs** Final speeches and Farewell  
**2000 Hrs** Depart on Bus Coach and return to Hotel

#### **Monday 24 Sept.**

**0900 Hrs** Libeau tour party disassembles.  
**1000 Hrs** All tour party book out of Hotel Les Remparts.

### **Au Revoir and onward / homeward journeys start!**

NB Those travelling to Paris I am awaiting a selection of appropriate hotels in Paris and anticipate to receive these in next 2-4 weeks from Grant Wright.

### **Pre Tour Assembly – Wellington**

I can now confirm this will take place on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> of June at 1.30 pm at the Alliance Francaise Wellington Headquarters, Manners Street Wellington.

I would sincerely hope that everyone can attend as it is very important everyone meets one another before arriving in France. We plan to hold the North Island part of the AGM (1.5 hours) and then start planning musical items, a Maori haka as well as electing a tour leader. Also discussing what everyone is planning in the 5 days between the weekends. I plan to bring brochures and travel information for the trip.

It would be great if we could have evening dinner together and I hope to invite the French Language Attache from the French Embassy and the Director General of the Alliance Francaise in NZ.

I recommend flying to Wellington for those travelling as special Air NZ prices presently are very good value and are more economic than driving from anywhere in the country!

In the next newsletter will advise some cheap accommodation in Wellington and I would hope everyone could stay over Saturday evening and depart Sunday.

In conclusion I want to thank you all for your patience during the planning cycle which has been very demanding and difficult and as you can see by the numbers travelling co-ordination is a mammoth task.

We have nearly got this part concluded and I now require everyone to confirm their hotel bookings for the 2 weekends. I recommend only staying 3 nights each weekend and I have heard some are thinking of leaving events early on the Sunday. This I believe is not best and both Sundays will be very full days finishing early to mid evening.

Any problems or changes please contact me by e-mail at [vaughanm@ihug.co.nz](mailto:vaughanm@ihug.co.nz) or ring me in the evenings at home 03 3525272.

In the meantime keep brushing up your French and maybe on the 9<sup>th</sup> June we will have a period of speaking French only. Perhaps at the evening meal and please do not be afraid of this challenge as it should be fun and positive and is not designed to embarrass anyone!

Please can everyone complete the attached page confirming their accommodation and return to me by **the 14<sup>th</sup> of April via e-mail**. We need to before paying a 30% deposit, which is quite an amount in excess of 4,000 Euros.

A Bientot!

Au Revoir

[Vaughan McEwen \(tired co-ordinator!\)](#)

Name/s: \_\_\_\_\_

I /we require Accommodation on the following nights in Rochefort

**September 2007 nights of**

**14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25**

(Please circle the nights required)

**Other Events your indication please circle your intentions**

**Weekend One**

- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| 1. Guided Tour in English through La Corderie Royale  | Yes / No |
| 2. Friday 14 Sept Visiting a Brassiere of Rochefort to taste local cuisine.<br>(French family to confirm)<br>Approximate cost 30 Euro per person. | Yes / No |
| 3. Saturday 15 September Mayoral Reception  | Yes / No |
| 4. Saturday 15 September Brassiere Evening Dinner venue TBA<br>Cost 30 Euro per person. (To be confirmed)   | Yes / No |
| 5. Sunday 16 September Boat Trip Cost Approx 38E per person   | Yes /No  |
| 6. Conversionne and Evening meal at Rochefort restaurant  | Yes /No  |

**Preferred Choices 17-21 September**

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| Option 1: Barge trip 3-5 days to Cognac                                       | Yes /No |
| Option 2: Return to Paris and visit the Louvre,<br>Eiffel Tower, quai Branly. | Yes /No |
| Option 3: Visit Bordeaux  | Yes /No |
| Option 4: Visit Poitiers, Nantes and / or Futuroscope                         | Yes /No |
| Option 5: Visit the Loire Valley and view at least<br>3 Chateaux's            | Yes /No |

**Weekend 2**

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| 1. Friday 21 September - Buffet meal at Hotel Les Remparts                  | Yes /No |
| 2. Saturday 22 September - Day Trip to La Rochelle Bus trip and guided tour | Yes /No |
| 3. Sunday 23 September Family day Bus Travel                                | Yes /No |

**PLEASE RETURN TO VAUGHAN BY Saturday 14 April 2007. [vaughanm@ihug.co.nz](mailto:vaughanm@ihug.co.nz)**