



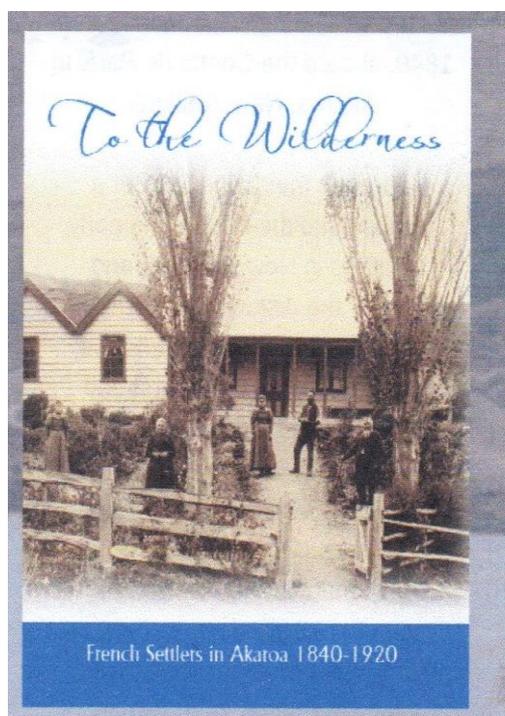
# 2018

**Web Site:** <http://libeau-family.org/>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/Libeau.Family>

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Jul 18

# *Greetings from the President*

*July 2018*

Greetings from the President travelling in the USA - meeting up with descendants of Donatien Libeau in Washington DC near the end of the tour!

The Libeau Descendants Society was initiated almost 30 years ago by Patricia Stoneman and Peter Yeoman through separate advertisements for Libeau descendants in the Press public notices. Today we celebrate this incredible tale of discovery as the secrets of the past continue to unravel. Deep friendships across the countries of France and New Zealand are maintained and we delight in our unique heritage and French connections.

In the recent milestone Gazette No 50 we published the three key aims of the original Society. It is great to note that the focus is still the same and we continue to realise those goals- reunions; genealogy and family research and identifying cemetery plots and funding upgraded headstones.

In line with this focus; the plaque has been installed at 54 Rue Grehan outlining the provenance of Joseph Lucien's cottage and including web site reference for prospective family researchers. The colonial cottage has been meticulously restored by current owners Robyn and Stephen Matheson and is available for holiday weekends on the BookaBach site.

The Comte de Paris Descendants group was established to include the wider settler families and demonstrates this during the biennial re-enactment of the French arrival at Akaroa French Fest. Last October the change of organisation produced some serious challenges with minimal focus on the actual landing within a wider historical drama. There has been considerable discussion on any future involvement.

We celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> Gazette publication last month with a special edition. I remember when I returned from my first trip to France almost 20 years ago and attended a Libeau Descendant's AGM; Gordon Heyward proposed a newsletter to regularly document events and communicate with members. From hand-typed, mailed missives to emailed quarterly booklets this has kept family up to date with new information.

The commitment from many individuals over the years is remarkable. We have a much clearer understanding of our complex history. At the AGM we launch the latest publication. The fictional story is supported by intensive research in an engaging publication. "Warts and all - with skeletons falling out of closets"- the honest tales deepen earlier understandings and, in some instances, perhaps explain why in some families the relatives were not talked about. This publication is a huge step forward in the collation of our shared history. It will help us join up the dots and enable the younger generation to access their past.

Our French contingent continue to support the cause. Their annual AGM is held in a wonderful restaurant followed by a home meeting over champagne and nibbles. Giles Fournat continues to dig deep into the archives and recently visited London where Mary-Ann Hedgeman was born.

Ann West is on the Gendrot trail and we look forward to Peter Tremewan's latest book. This is an extraordinary family history and we are privileged to be part of it. We look forward to another year of discovery and shared wider family experiences. Thank you for your support and encouragement.

*Heather Libeau-Dow*

## Deaths

**Deaths** **Dorothy Olivia (Olive) BRADDOCK** b11 Jul 1922 d 22 Sep 2017. Much loved wife of the late Louis Braddock and mother of Glenda, Graham and Carol. Olive was the daughter of the late Samuel and Dorothy Heyward.

**Kenneth Raymond WRIGHT** b 30 Jan 1923 d 3 April 2018. Much loved husband of the late Veronica and father to Morgan, Stephen and Clare. Ken was the son of the late Henry and Moir Wright.

**Lucien Walter MIDDLETON** b 8 July 1930 d 23 April 2018. Dearly loved husband of the late Dorothy and Emily and father of Colleen, Russell, Jocelyn, Dean and Gregory. Lucien was the son of the late Alma (nee Libeau) and John Middleton



**Wendy Elizabeth HAWKE** b 10 August 1955 d18 Jul 2018  
Wendy was mother to Kelly and Tony and daughter of the late Elsie and Arthur Hawke.

**Suzanne LONGSHORE NIGRO** d 17 Jul 2018 Dearly loved daughter of Leonie and the late Westy Longshore and sister to the late David and Caroline

## Alliance Francaise News

### Petit Matin Croissant

Join us at AF, 275 Cashel Street on the last Saturday of every month from 9.30am to enjoy coffee, croissants (from Le Panier) and French conversation in a relaxed atmosphere. All welcome.

**Cost:** [\\$10 general](#), [\\$7 AFC members](#) and students, [\\$5 children](#) - coffee, tea, croissant (from Le Panier), baguette, orange juice included. **BOOKING ADVISED.**

Language courses:

**Term 3 courses:** 10 weeks ► 23<sup>th</sup> of July - 30<sup>th</sup> of September

**Term 4 courses:** 9 weeks ► 15<sup>th</sup> of October - 14<sup>th</sup> of December

### Ciné Club

Discover the best of French cinema at the Alliance Française Christchurch every first Friday of the month - 6pm - Limited seating, first in first served - Koha entry

Fancy a French movie in a very relaxed atmosphere? Come to our Ciné Club! No worries, the movies are screened in the original version with subtitles.

To discover more about the Alliance Francaise, go to the web site below.

[www.afchristchurch.org.nz](http://www.afchristchurch.org.nz) or they have branches in other centres.

E-mail: enquiries@afchristchurch.org.nz

## *Family*

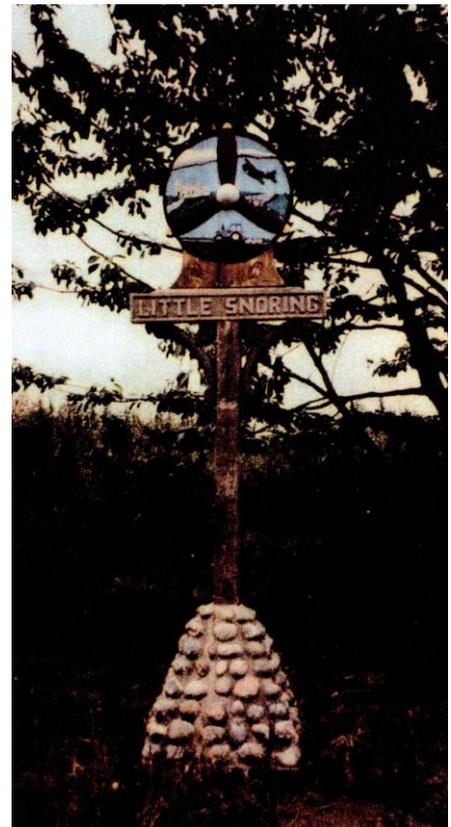
**Andrew William CLARK**, son of Andrew Frank and Isabella (Isa) Clark.

Andrew died on Active Service. He joined the Royal New Zealand Air Force in 1941 and was trained in Canada before joining a Squadron at a place called Little Snoring (The airfield is still active as a commercial operation) in Norfolk, England. He was listed as Missing in Action on 4 October 1943.

Google 'Little Snoring' for further information.

The letter below (a type written copy) was received by his Mother, Isa and was found recently during a family move. The Boyds subsequently came out to New Zealand and meet the Clark Family in 1952.

The second letter was written by Andrew to his young brother Malcolm (Micky). The letter was posted on arrival in San Francisco in May 1942 and note the Censored Stamp indicating the Censorship of the time.



*New York*

*Jan 18<sup>th</sup> 1943*

*Dear Mrs Clark,*

*Last night your boy, Andrew, had supper with my husband and me, he and two of his pals, Eric McNamara from Greymouth and Owen Nessler (?) from Auckland. They had come down from Halifax, Nova Scotia, on a three-day leave. We first saw them the night before, when they were having supper with some American sailors and soldiers in a restaurant where we were. When my husband saw "New Zealand" on their uniforms he couldn't resist speaking to*

them. He was in the last war and had several New Zealand friends. He gave the boys our hotel address and yesterday they telephoned us and we invited them to come to supper with us.

We had such a good time. All three boys looked very well and seemed in fine spirits. They had been sight-seeing all day - and we were hoping the weather would clear today so they could see the view from the tall buildings. My husband and I plied them with questions. They told us all about home and I think you need not worry that they will ever want to settle anywhere else! They filled us with a great desire to see New Zealand. We had seen many pictures of it, of course - some taken by a friend who was there three years ago and who can hardly wait for the war to be over so she can go back. Andy and the other two boys urged us to come - so I think you will probably have an invasion of Americans after the war. Of course, there are a good many there now aren't there? I believe a unit from one of our biggest New York hospitals is there. They wrote glowing letters home.

I think - if there must be this terrible war - it is at least a fine thing that our boys and yours are going to each other's countries. If we can all get to know each other and be friends it will surely be a help towards building a permanent peace.

We enjoyed seeing Andy and his friends more than I can say. He is a fine boy, such a lovely friendly manner and so nice. We have two boys - eighteen and twenty-one - so we consider ourselves judges of boys!

With all good wishes to you, from

Yours sincerely,

Katherine L. Boyd

Home address: Mrs James Boyd, Southern Pines, North Carolina, N. C.



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Friday

Dear Micky

How are you getting on brother. I hope you are o.k. & looking after the place alright you know you have to do the job for me. We are having a great time on the boat but will be very glad to get to Canada. We are in the tropics & it is very hot you can sweat with nothing on. We see a lot of flying fish they are funny we things. How's the little pup doing. Has he started to boss you about yet. I'm looking forward to a letter from you so don't forget to give me all the news. Give Josephine & Norman a big love for me. I have sent you some menu cards so you can see the great meals we have. I think this all the news for now micky. Post my wallet with all that is in some time I left it on my dressing table  
Chris boy  
Andy

I will write to  
you again

ATLANTA  
MAY 19 1942

ON ACTIVE SERVICE



SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF. 94  
MAY 19 5 30 PM  
1942

BUY  
DEFENSE SAVINGS  
BONDS AND STAMPS

**CENSORED.**  
**SIGNATURE.**  
**RANK.**  
**R.N.Z.A.F.**

Mr M D Clark  
Wataroa  
1th Westland  
West Coast  
1th Island  
New Zealand

Mr M D Clark R.M.  
H2421861

42.2  
FOA



Andrew and his young brother Micky on the family farm in Whataroa



Wataroa ( Whataroa was spelt this way then) Golf Club probably late 1930's - Andy in white on far left with other Wataroa locals – Richard Clark has names if anyone is interested.

# *Comte de Paris Activities*

## **French Fest**

The Society has withdrawn from the Akaroa committee, planning next year's event, which will be held over **11 to 13th October 2019**. However, they will provide descendants in period dress to take part in the actual landing. Anyone interested in taking part in the actual landing should contact our Secretary Linda Sunderland – 337 5045 or 027 4100921. We would like a mix of families, men, women and children. Costumes are available from Bev Wilson – 03 741 933 or 027 2288060. Numbers on the ship are limited so if you wish to be on board contact Linda as soon as possible. C de P members will have first choice.

## **Cemetery Project**

Our Society have been working with the council since 2011 trying to have repairs done to the damaged headstones and to get consent to build a memorial entry gate to the Catholic Cemetery. The Comte de Paris group is willing to fund this. The Akaroa Men's Shed has agreed to build it as a community project, however the Council continue to put many road blocks in our way.

In preparation for further action to Council we have initiated a 'Friends of Akaroa Cemetery's' group to promote and advance the perseverance of the Akaroa cemeteries. At the inaugural meeting nine people from the local community have volunteered to form a working group in Akaroa to support the Comte de Paris Committee and provide local assistance. This enthusiasm is much appreciated and hopefully will enhance our standing when dealing with the Council staff. We can now say the group consists not only of the Comte de Paris Descendants but also the local community.

A recent presentation to the Local Community Board and the Council's 10 Year Plan has resulted in interest from some members of the Board and Council to a degree that we may now have sparked interest in our projects and some support for them from some Councillors.

## **Heritage Park**

We have been talking to the Akaroa Heritage Park Committee about the possibility of helping at their working bees and perhaps looking after an area of the Park to help them. Their Committee approved of the idea and have now staked out an area on the hillside facing Long bay, for us to tidy up, plant out and maintain.

We already have several Memorial Trees planted in that area. 'Trees for Canterbury' have advised that twice a year they donate trees to various organisations to plant. We have applied for trees at their next distribution.

Working Bees are held on the last Saturday of the month

# AGM 2018

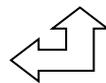
The AGM was held at the L'Alliance Francaise on 20 May 2018 at 2.00pm, followed by the launch of the Book – 'To the Wilderness' and then afternoon tea. This seemed to be a better time socially with 32 members attending. Two members joined the Committee; Frances Harrison and Suzanne McNabb. Patricia Stoneman relinquished the Secretary appointment, which was taken by Desiree McKenzie.



Frances Harrison, Patricia Stoneman, Bruce Clark, Heather Libeau-Dow, Richard Clark, Cameron Parsonson. Absent (Overseas) Desiree McKenzie



Martine Marshall-Durieux  
Heather Libeau-Dow  
Patricia Stoneman



Kevin Clark  
Heather Libeau Dow



## *Overdue Subscriptions*

Have you paid your subscription yet? It is sad to say that each year a few more people are deleted from our society and our mailing list because of failure to renew their membership.

**Please pay your 2018/19 subscription now.**

Accounts for the 2018/2019 subscription were sent out in April. As discussed at the 2017 AGM it was decided to reduce the subscription to \$15.00 a year.

## *Editor's Notes*

Please keep forwarding any articles of interest - travel, profiles, etc., to enable La Gazette to continue to inform and interest all our valuable family members.

Send to: Bruce Clark at [dianabruce1970@gmail.com](mailto:dianabruce1970@gmail.com)

**(NOTE: Change of email address)**

**Have you changed your e-mail or residential address? Ensure you let me know so we can continue to send you La Gazette.**

## *Across the Desk Top*

Since our last La Gazette celebration copy we have held the Annual General Meeting.

There was a very pleasing turn out of members, including special guests; Martine Marshall, our Patron, Stephanie Sew Hoy, President of the Alliance Francaise, Peter Tremewan, Honorary member and Christine, Peter Breitmeyer and Lynda Sunderland from the Comte de Paris.

There were two new members elected to the committee; Suzanne McNabb and Frances Harrison. Thank you for your willingness to join the committee.

A sad note to include here is the passing of Wendy Hawke. Wendy was our Treasurer for a period before being diagnosed with cancer. She fought this off and was in remission, but unfortunately it returned and she passed away last month. Our condolences to Tony, Kelly and family. You have been a tremendous support team for Wendy.

A look back at the past...

I am really enjoying reading '*Into the wilderness*' Thank you to Angela Pyke and Kevin Clark, researchers and authors.

I will sign off and continue packing for our move to Ohoka and a new lifestyle with our family.

Memories to create.

*Patricia*

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**To the Wilderness**  
*French Settlers in Akaroa 1840-1920*

**Order Form**

Return to: P O Box 14203, Kilbirnie, Wellington 6241  
or email to [kevin\\_clark@xtra.co.nz](mailto:kevin_clark@xtra.co.nz).

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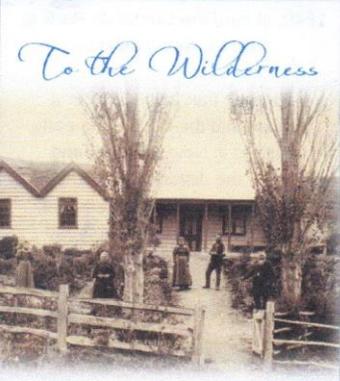
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Published  
April 2018



French Settlers in Akaroa 1840-1920

"This is an important story for those interested in New Zealand's colonial history and in particular the French settlement at Akaroa. It answers many thought-provoking questions that, as a family, we pondered over when celebrating 150 years of French Settlement in Akaroa in 1990."

Libeau Descendants Society Committee

It is 1895, and 12-year-old Amelia Hunt is spending a week with her grandparents Clémence Libeau (née Gendrot) and Joseph Lucien Libeau. Amelia is fascinated by the stories of their earlier lives, including when they left Rochefort, France as young children in March 1840, aboard the *Comte de Paris* to Akaroa, New Zealand.

Through their tales, we get a glimpse into the lives of the early settlers in New Zealand, and discover the disturbing truth about Joseph Libeau Senior, and the hardship faced by his first and second wives, Magdelaine Chauvet and Mary Ann Hedgman.

We also learn about other descendants. Some stayed in Banks Peninsula or moved around New Zealand, while others went back to France, or moved to Australia or the USA. The book ends with the experience of 40 descendants in WWI and the death in 1919 of Joseph Lucien Libeau; the last survivor from the *Comte de Paris* voyage.

*To the Wilderness* is written by Angela Pyke and Kevin Clark, sixth and seventh generation descendants of Magdelaine Chauvet and Joseph Libeau.

It is the result of over 10 years of research and the compilation of stories, documents and photographs generously provided by family members who have collected, written about and recorded family history. The book also draws on research by other writers, discussion with many people, documents discovered in archives and reports from old newspapers.

**Order Form**

Return to P O Box 14203, Kilbirnie, Wellington 6241  
or email the information to kevin\_clark@xtra.co.nz.

Payment in NZ: by cheque or bank transfer to  
Libeau Publications, Westpac, account no. 0315370030044001

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(we will email instructions)

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