



La Gazette

September 2024 #70



President's Greeting.

It's definitely springtime! After a long cold winter we are rejoicing in the beauty all around us- blossom, daffodils, tulips, magnolias blooming in my garden with lovely sunny days after early morning frost.

The annual Comte de Paris Landing Day lunch was held recently on August 18 on a very wet Sunday. Twenty eight members enjoyed a delicious meal and afterwards I read Peter Tremewan's account of the day our ancestors disembarked 184 years ago.

"The weather was cold when the colonists went ashore – there had been rain and snow the previous day- the log records a temperature of 8 degrees C at 4pm and over-cast weather on August 19. Families were placed in one tent and the single men in another. Other tents were

erected as stores and cargo from the Comte de Paris was ferried ashore and placed in them.

Wintry weather continued making life under canvas uncomfortable, but until the 5 acres of land promised was allocated more permanent housing could not be built." (p 136 French Akaroa).

Several Libeau committee attended the lunch which was followed by our August committee meeting at my home. Agenda items included confirmation of the decision to republish To the Wilderness and the family calendar produced in 2012. *I met with Kevin Clark recently to discuss these and we will invite expressions of interest once the prices are confirmed from an offshore publisher. The sub- committee is working on the Libeau genealogy update and the new treasurer is setting up processes for invoicing memberships.*

Recently my family organised a French dinner at my son and daughter-in-law's home. Originally planned as a belated Bastille Day celebration, it became a Father's Day/birthday dinner and we all contributed to the menu (see photos). After discussion about our Libeau Christmas lunch and the challenges of booking a suitable venue, Cameron and Heidi have offered to host a High Tea at their home 123 on Sunday December 1 from 3-4.30pm. We would love to see you there!

Website: libeau-family.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Libeau.Family

Contributions for La Gazette: fharrison55@hotmail.com



French events for your diary

Comte de Paris Descendants Weekend October 26-28-see newsletter info

Akaroa Homes and Gardens tour November 23/24 -poster attached separately

Libeau Christmas Tea Party December 1 @ 123 Joy St 3pm

Please confirm with heidi.parsonson@gmail.com

Inside this edition:

- President's Greeting
- Upcoming French events
- Current situation of Rochefort/ Akaroa Assn
- Monument to the Somme and our men
- Membership update
- Obituary Michael McNabb
- Committee photo + Scam alert
- 54 rue Grehan
- French Flair
- Comte de Paris Descendants Weekend rsvp
- Recipe
- Libeau-related photo
- Committee details



Concerning our family association in France



A message from Annick & Alain BOUSSIRON

We got together at Jean and Baudoin's place on the second of August to look at the state of things for the Libeau/Akaroa Association.

Present were...

Jeanne et Baudoin MAZET, Micheline et Gilles Fournat

Michèle et Michel LIBAUD, Annick et Alain BOUSSIRON

After the meal we considered the future of the association after having looked at potential members, following the recent decease of several participants. The quorum is reduced to the above 8 members plus Catherine Huon.

We have decided, after a show of hands, to put our association in hibernation for a year. However, if members of the family show themselves willing to take on responsibilities, we will welcome them with pleasure. The old ones are tired and the young ones are not very motivat-

ed. [Translation F Harrison]

Nous nous sommes réunis chez Jeanne et Baudoin le 8/02/24 pour examiner la situation de l'association LIBAUD/AKAROA. Etaient présents :

Jeanne et Baudoin MAZET

Micheline et Gilles Fournat

Michèle et Michel LIBAUD

Annick et Alain BOUSSIRON

Après le repas nous avons évoqué l'avenir de l'association après avoir fait le point sur les potentiels adhérents suite aux décès récents de certains membres . L'effectif est réduit à ces 8 membres pré-cités plus Catherine HUON.

Nous avons décidé, après vote à mains levées ,de mettre notre association en sommeil pour une année. Cependant si des membres de la famille se manifestent pour prendre des responsabilités, nous les accueillerons avec plaisir. Les anciens sont fatigués et les jeunes peu motivés.....

Mémorial national néo-zélandais de Longueval.



The monument to the New Zealand Division at Longueval commemorates the participation of New Zealanders during the Battle of the Somme.

On 15 September 1916, in the space of 30 minutes, the New Zealanders achieved their objective of retaking the 'switch line' position (located at the very spot of the monument) and subsequently capturing the village of Flers, at a cost of 2,580 men wounded, killed and missing.

Le monument à la division néo-zélandaise situé à Longueval rappelle la participation des Néo-Zélandais à la Bataille de la Somme.

Le 15 septembre 1916, en l'espace de 30 minutes, les néo-zélandais ont atteint l'objectif de reprendre la position 'switch line' (située à l'endroit-même du monument), afin de capturer par la suite le village de Flers, au prix de 2580 hommes blessés, tués et disparus.

Thanks to Catherine Huon for alerting us to this post on FACEBOOK

Membership Update

Over recent years (since covid) we have lost contact with the following members. There are probably several reasons, but most likely are changes of residential address or email address. If you have family connections with any of the following, could you please ask them to get in touch, so we can amend/update their membership:

Mrs Louise Cade, Lubbock, Texas 79423, USA
Mr Alan J. & Mrs VE Cusdin, Stratford
Mrs Sandra Hodgson, Manurewa, Auckland
Mr Trevor J. Horne, Epsom, Auckland
Mr Alan J. Norrish, Nelson
Mr Michael I. Watts, Wairoa, NSW, Australia
Mr Peter Milligan, Nelson
Mr M Paul J. Jenkins Ashmore, Gold Coast, Australia
Jenni Smith 16 Pioneer Road, Ngongotaha
Mr Steven P. Le Beau Beckenham, Christchurch

On a related matter, those of you with 'xtra.co.nz email accounts will be aware that Spark are now charging a monthly fee for your email. If you are considering making a change, please don't forget to send us your updated email details.
Merci beaucoup, Alastair McGowan

Obituary



Michael Gerard McNabb was born 17 October 1946 at Akaroa. He was the eldest of five children of Bob & Maureen McNabb. Bob was the grandson of Josephine Libeau (1854-1926), the eldest daughter of Joseph Libeau Sr. and his second wife, Mary Anne Hedgman. His father Bob was a postmaster, and this meant frequent shifts: Michael was just four when the family moved to Orepuki and then to Edendale in Southland, before settling at Rakaia late in 1959.

Michael got a job at the post office at Rakaia, and met Beverly Keane when they were seventeen. They married five years later and moved to the Wellington region where their eldest children Keiran and Reuben were born. They decided to resettle in Christchurch in 1973, living in a red brick house in Burwood where sons Ben and Caleb followed.

Michael was a humble, empathetic, and generous man; adored by his family, and well known in north-east Christ-

church for his community leadership, social activism, and commitment to working for justice for those disadvantaged. Michael was a lover of music and developed a taste for jazz, punk, country, ska, pop, and anything in between. He would import albums from overseas, and opened his own record shop Mike's Place on Hereford Street, Christchurch, in 1976, closing down in December 1980.

Michael was also a senior club rugby player at this time; but when his club refused his motion to publicly oppose the 1981 Springbok tour, Michael gave up the game that he loved. He would not condone the apartheid regime and its ill-treatment of people of colour.

He was strongly opposed to electricity sector reforms which led to residential customers subsidizing trans-national corporations, and strongly opposed the shift to manage government departments as businesses; foreseeing the rising costs this would impose on the people. He co-formed the North East Christchurch Energy Group in 1981 and led protests against the power price rises.

The family had a close connection with the local Catholic parish, based at 212 Burwood Road where he initiated many groups and activities where people were encouraged to build a sense of belonging and wellbeing. Michael was predeceased by his brother Frank in 2015, and sister Rose in early 2023 as reported in La Gazette #65. He passed away peacefully at Christchurch Hospital on 21 August 2024 after a lengthy illness with Dementia. His funeral was held in Christchurch and his burial was on the drizzly afternoon of Monday 26 August at Rakaia Cemetery, alongside many of his and Beverly's relatives.

Written by Matt McNabb

Your Committee

Introducing your merry team of volunteers beavering away to protect your heritage and genealogy information. We also organise social events for you.



Tim , Alistair, Mary Ann, Frances, Matt, Heather, Laura, Richard, Cameron

Absent: Suzanne, Desiree, Bruce

Scam Alert

Libeau family emails have been scammed asking “Are you free at the moment?” then asking to purchase iTunes cards for and family member and will reimburse it. Please do not answer these messages.

Presenting 54 Rue Grehan

Here is the last of the Libeau cottages to be featured. It is easily the best preserved of the lot (one being long gone).

It has a category 2 heritage listing and was originally the home of Joseph Libeau jun. and his wife Clémence, built in 1863.

The house was associated with the neighbouring Libeau brick-works until at least the mid 1870s.

The land is 1,897m² and shows off its long established orchard. It's laid out to be easy maintenance as the house has been part of Bachcare properties for short term rental.

It sold for \$820,000 in 2020. Council records say the walls and roof are of average condition but I really think this doesn't do the cottage justice. This is a high quality restoration and improvement. Modern amenities have been done with care and taste. No clutter, just preserving the character and providing modern comfort.

Despite its modest exterior, the home offers four bedrooms, including two attic rooms accessed via a steep staircase. The living/dining space is open plan with an updated kitchen and bathroom ensuring day to day life is considerably easier than it was for the original occupants! A large double garage and external studio provide further options.



Joseph Libeau jnr. migrated to Sydney in the 1850s, but returned to Akaroa in 1856 to marry Clemence Gendrot. The couple initially settled in Duvauchelles, but returned to Akaroa to work at the Libeau family brickworks in Chemin Grehan (now Rue Grehan), developed on land Joseph Libeau sen. purchased from Clemence's father Pierre in 1857.

In 1860 Joseph sen. subdivided the site of 54 from the brickworks plot; the house was presumably developed soon after. Joseph jnr worked at the brickworks for eight years before returning to Duvauchelles with his family. The brickworks continued under the management of other family members until the 1880s, but Joseph junior's cottage was sold to carpenter George Checkley in 1875.

Checkley had substantial landholdings in and around Akaroa, so may have leased the cottage out until his death in 1897. By 1895 Checkley had also purchased the remainder of Joseph Libeau sen.'s property. The cottage belonged to members of the Sunckell family (another old Akaroa family who built Windermere on Rue Lavaud) from 1902-1958.

If you would like to check out its listing for a stay in Akaroa here's the link <https://www.booking.com/hotel/nz/libeau-cottage-akaroa-holiday-home.en-gb.html>

Beware!! It is pricey. For two nights in the middle of winter it'll set you back \$1,080 making it one of the most expensive places to book in Akaroa.



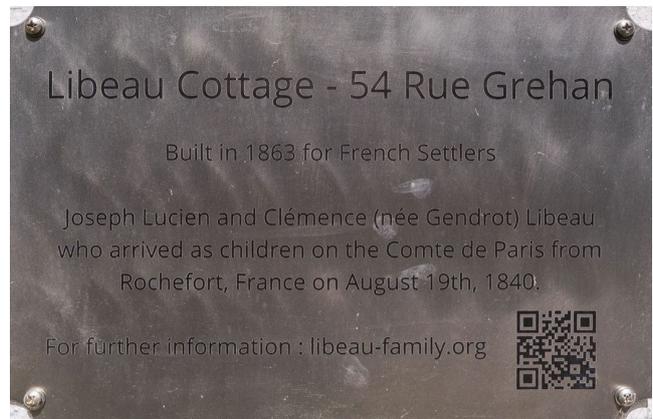
There are an additional 2 bedrooms at the top of the attic accessed by a tiny staircase and these are not in use for renters.

Down the long drive there is a separate modern double garage, sheds and outdoor dining.



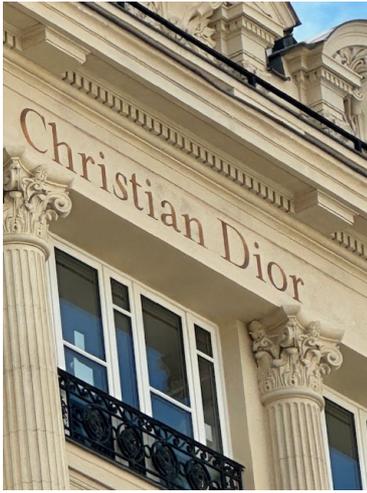
Here you can see the lovely setting for the property with a view to the harbour. The fruit trees in the foreground are all that remain of the Libeau market gardens (#56) which were still in operation during the early part of the twentieth century.





At left, as it was in 1948 before modern amendments





FRENCH FLAIR

Long ago my grandma , Clemence White nee Clark ,(1883-1988) told me that the French women she knew in Akaroa of the late 1800's to early 1900's, were all good at sewing clothes and liked to be well dressed. Her mother, Marie Clark-Heyward née Libeau (1857-1958) certainly inherited this gift from her mother Clémence Libeau née Gendrot (1835-1908) and my grandma's wedding dress made by Marie was a beautiful, lovingly hand made creation .



So when visiting Paris this September, with this inheritance in my veins , I felt I should visit La Galerie Dior, the Musée de Christian Dior (1905-1957) at Rue Francois 1er .Never mind the mine-field getting there and being tangled up in the Paralympic bike race on the Champs-Élysées and finding my street cut off- what are French gendarmes there for but to help me reach my goal? So charming and many apologies because he could not speak good English.



As a small girl in 1947 I clearly remember the excitement and talk around me by my mother and her friends of The New Look . From the 20's onwards and through the drab War Years here at last was fashion – women had a flattering outline again , shapeless was out ! Christian Dior , the creator of beautiful clothes and a master of dreams burst on the scene with French Flair. Our Simplicity and Butterick patterns that we bought in NZ for home dressmaking, all became influenced by original Dior designs.

Christian's creativity was rooted in his happy childhood. His favourite colours were pink and grey – the pink walls and grey tiled roof of his home in Granville facing the English Channel. He adored his mother who gave him a lifelong love of gardening and flowers – expressed over and over again in his textile designs and embroidery She shaped in him the example of the female ideal that, as a couturier, Dior tirelessly sought to serve with his fashion designs and perfumes. La Galerie Dior perpetuates the memory

and magic of this artistic man, displaying original creations , design sketches and original documents . The garments on show are all Haute Couture pieces from the Dior Heritage Collection.

Written by Desiree McKenzie

- 1 classical frontage of La Galerie Dior .
- 2 His childhood home , background to one of his magical gowns with floral trim
- 3 The New Look
- 4 Sketches of New Look styles



Comte de Paris Descendants Weekend at Akaroa over Labour weekend (26th to 28th October 2024).

Below is the Comte de Paris programme of Events.

For catering purposes we require numbers ASAP for all the events

Saturday :

10.30 to 12.00 am Drop in to the restored **Sawmill Cottage** on Sawmill Road Robinsons Bay

(home of Rosina Breitmeyer ,daughter of Johannes Breitmeyer)

2.00 to 4.00pm -Visit to the **Le Lievre Homestead** on Long Bay Road
(the original home of Virginie and Eugene Le Lievre)

6.00 pm - Dinner at the **Madeira Hotel**.
(Drinks at 6.00pm seated at 6.30 pm)

Sunday:

9.30 am Crepe Brunch at **The Common** in Akaroa

1.30 pm Afternoon tea at the **Gaiety Hall** Akaroa with Family information sharing and a guest speaker

(please bring any family photos documents and memorabilia you would like to share)

Monday Morning

9.30 am Guided Tour of both the Catholic and Anglican Cemeteries showing improvements that have been made plus an unveiling.

There will be a more detailed email set out closer to the time and a list of activities available.

If you have any questions regarding any of the events please email us at cdpdescendants@gmail.com

FLAN DE LÉGUMES

4 - 6 personnes

Ingrédients:

600 g de courgettes émincées
2 poireaux coupés en rondelles
200 g de brocolis en petits bouquets
150 g de fromage rapé
2 oeufs
300 ml de crème fraîche liquide
sel, poivre, muscade.

Recette:

- ❖ Faire cuire à la vapeur les légumes émincés.
- ❖ Dans un plat allant au four, mettre les légumes.
- ❖ Dans un bol, mélanger la crème fraîche, les oeufs, le fromage, muscade, sel et poivre.
- ❖ Verser cette préparation sur les légumes.
- ❖ Cuire au four préchauffé à 160°C pendant 30 minutes.

VEGETABLE FLAN

Serves 4 - 6

Ingredients:

600 g courgettes sliced
2 leeks sliced
200 g broccoli florets
150 g grated cheese
2 eggs
300 ml fresh cream
salt, pepper, nutmeg.

Method:

- ❖ Steam the vegetables.
- ❖ Put the vegetables in an ovenproof dish.
- ❖ In a bowl, mix fresh cream, eggs, grated cheese, salt, pepper and nutmeg.
- ❖ Pour the mixture onto the vegetables.
- ❖ Bake in a preheated oven at 160°C about 30 minutes.



Libeau stables/kiln with buggy in 1948

Libeau Subscriptions NZ

Have you paid your [subscription](#) yet? It's **only \$15** per year to keep in touch with other members via newsletters, have activities organised by your committee and learn about your personal history. Membership requests for payment for 2024/25 \$15.00 You now have the option to pay by bank transfer. We are sending out invoices and tidying up our membership lists. The fee is very reasonable compared to other descendants groups and we hope you'll resubscribe with us for all the great benefits we are working on for you.

BNZ 02 0842 0171 8690 00 Contact, our Treasurer, Alistair kiwitechie54@gmail.com

Libeau Subscriptions France

MADAME MCNABB SUZANNE

CR CHARENTE PERIGORD

AUBETERRE SAINT SEVERIN

Tel: 0969320036

Code établissement	Code guichet	Numéro de compte	Clé RIB
12406	00123	80024403037	90
IBAN (International Bank Account Number)			
FR76 1240 6001 2380 0244 0303 790			

Committee Contacts

President	Heather Libeau-Dow Ph 03 351 9006 or 021 351919	heatherlibeaudow@xtra.co.nz
Secretary	Desirée McKenzie Ph 03 689 8872	deay@xtra.co.nz
Treasurer	Alastair McGowan	kiwitechie54@gmail.com
La Gazette Editor & membership communications	Frances Harrison Ph 021 08677582	fharrison55@hotmail.com
Web Masters & IT	Cameron Parsonson Richard Clark	camparsonson@gmail.com webmaster@libeau-family.org
Minutes secretary	Bruce Clark 03 942 1705	dianabruce1970@gmail.com
Other committee members:	Mary-Ann Jenkins 021 588 063 Suzanne McNabb Matt McNabb Laura Gilray Timothy Hewitt	maryann.jenkinsnz@gmail.com suzannemcnabb@gmail.com mcnabb.nz.genealogy@gmail.com ljgilray@gmail.com timhewitt88@gmail.com
Zone co-ordinators Southern North Is	Alison Hannah	alisonhannah@icloud.com
South Canterbury South Is	Desirée McKenzie	deay@xtra.co.nz
FRANCE rep	Alain Boussiron	alain.boussiron@orange.fr