

**Save the date: 2022 Conference**  
7-8 April 2022



## Season's Greetings

The Board of Global Cities New Zealand extends our best wishes to all members and friends. May you all have a restful and relaxing Christmas and New Year break!

As we approach the end of 2021, it is a great time to reflect back on all that's been achieved, despite the many challenges and constraints. Our ability to connect with friends and sister cities abroad continues to be majorly impacted by the pandemic but, as you will see in this issue, our members have responded with resilience, innovation and creativity!

As the whakataukī goes: He waka eke noa - We're all in this together. The global pandemic has separated the world in many ways, but it has also brought us together in meeting this common challenge and continuing to value and celebrate our international connections.

Take care over the holiday season. We look forward to seeing you again at the 2022 GCNZ conference 7-8 April in Marlborough, in collaboration with the Marlborough District Council (save the date!).

Ngā mihi o te wā

**GCNZ Board**

## From the Board

The Global Cities New Zealand board has been looking at potential te reo Māori names that reflect the goals and objective of Global Cities New Zealand that will run alongside all communications of Global Cities NZ.

There will be a discussion and decision made at the conference AGM.

Please feel free to let us know your thoughts.

### Potential Names and Meanings

<b>Piringa Taurikura</b>	<b>Piringa</b> – connection, relationship, association, loyalty, commitment, allegiance
<b>Piringa Hapori</b>	<b>Taurikura</b> – prosperous, thriving, at peace
<b>Piringa Houtupu Huriao</b>	<b>Hapori</b> – community
	<b>Houtupu</b> – genuine, sincere, authentic
<b>Piringa Huriao</b>	<b>Huriao</b> – global, worldwide

## New Member



### Priority One – Tauranga Moana

**Te pai me te whai rawa o Tauranga Moana ki te ao**  
**The prosperity and splendour of Tauranga Moana to the world**

Priority One is an economic development enabler focused on creating a prosperous and sustainable city and region. Our most effective contribution to the community is to focus on the creation of highly skilled jobs and the ability of our own people to fill them. As a business-led economic development organisation our direct connection to over 300 local business members ensures our effectiveness in creating a high value economy that delivers social, cultural and environmental benefits to our community. We place significant value on international partnerships as a means to enhance regional prosperity. The Western Bay of Plenty International Strategy is a collaborative multi-agency place-based approach to attract skills, talent and investment to the region. Alongside a number of sector based global partnerships, Tauranga City has two long-standing sister cities, with which there are active work programmes in education, trade and cultural exchange – Yantai, China (35 years) and Hitachi, Japan (33 years).

As a new GCNZ member we are excited about the future direction of the organisation. SCNZ has always played a crucial role in fostering the people to people relationships needed for meaningful international connections and GCNZ is now well placed to play a significant role in helping New Zealand cities, communities and regions build enduring global relationships for mutual benefit.



## Looking forward to Global Cities New Zealand conference in Marlborough: 7-8 April 2022

By Cathie Bell, Marlborough Sister City Committee

**Marlborough's sister city committee members are looking forward to welcoming everyone to April's Global Cities New Zealand conference in Blenheim.**

The conference, at Blenheim's events centre on April 7 and 8, is themed on "creating connections", both on how sister cities can maintain their relationships during COVID disruptions and how those relationships might be re-built when international travel becomes feasible again.

Marlborough mayor John Leggett is taking a strong interest in the conference's planning and is keen to show off some of the best aspects of Marlborough to guests.

"It's important to us here in Marlborough to show good manaakitanga and hospitality to visitors. We want you to enjoy your stay here."

Marlborough sister city committee chair Gerald Hope says the conference will be a high quality one that participants will get value out of as well as enjoyment.

"There will be a variety of stimulating speakers to present to the conference. So it should be informative as well as enjoyable."

Recent conferences in Palmerston North and Wellington have set a high standard, he said, and Marlborough is keen to maintain that level of standard.

The 2022 conference will be notable for several

celebrations.

Auckland will celebrate 50 years of sister city relationship with Los Angeles in the United States and Christchurch will also celebrate 50 years of a sister city relationship with Adelaide in Australia. Several other cities and towns will celebrate long-standing relationship anniversaries.

The conference will also celebrate New Zealand's diplomatic relationships with the USA (80 years), Japan (70 years), South Korea (60 years) and China (50 years).

A range of accommodation options are available in Blenheim, near to the events centre venue.

People wanting to look at accommodation options can find plenty to consider at Marlborough's regional tourism organisation's website: [marlboroughnz.com](http://marlboroughnz.com). Listings can be found under the visit button, through the menu 'find & book'.

Gerald Hope said Marlborough was keen to see conference participants stay on for the weekend to experience some more of the great experiences Marlborough had to offer. A range of tours to the best of Marlborough's attractions have been organised so that participants and their partners can make the most of their travel time.

"We are very proud of our district, and we like to make sure visitors enjoy their time here."

[Click here to view the draft conference programme.](#)





# 40-year Anniversary between Tempe, Arizona and Lower Hutt, New Zealand

By Paul Duffin, Hutt Sister City Foundation President

**In 1981 Marie-Louise Blockley was tasked to travel to the USA by Lower Hutt Mayor Sir John Kennedy-Good, to learn about the new concept of Sister Cities. At the conference she was attending she met Dick Neuheisel from Tempe, Arizona and so the seeds were sown...**

Hutt Sister City Foundation, together with Tempe, wanted to mark their 40-year connection with a celebration event, but unfortunately COVID has prevented this. Hopefully when the borders re-open we can celebrate appropriately.

The suggestion was put forward to plant a tree in recognition of the warm relationship which has developed since that first trip back in 1981. The US Embassy was approached and was immediately on board, with the eventual site of Camperdown, the residence of the Ambassador, being selected.

After many emails back and forth, on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December we gathered to plant a beautiful kōwhai tree. The weather played its part, with the drizzle pausing for the ceremony.

The guests included Marie-Louise Blockley, two former Hutt City Mayors, along with previous student delegates, Hiromi Morris on behalf of GCNZ as well as the current Hutt City mayor and several councillors.

The planting of the tree was acknowledged by Peter Jackson, as the mana whenua representative, with several karakia being performed. This tree will be acknowledged with a plaque so that future visitors will understand the significance of its placing in the beautiful grounds of Camperdown.

As does the kōwhai tree grow, with strong roots and reaching outwards, so do the lives of the people who are part of the Sister City communities.



Left: Local kaumatua Peter Jackson, HSCF President Paul Duffin and US Ambassador Tom Udall. Middle: Tree planting.

Right: GCNZ President Hiromi Morris, Taylor Snow, Abbie Gordon, Paul Duffin, Kiralee Cooke, Ambassador Udall, Zoe Eathorne, Isla Hikuroa and Suzi Duffin (HSCF Student Co-ordinator HSCF).



## Marking the Liberation of a Sister City in 1918

By Sue Milner, Cambridge Community Board Chairperson

**Despite lockdown Cambridge marked the Anniversary of the Liberation of its Sister City in France. On 4<sup>th</sup> November 1918 the NZ Regiment liberated the Northern French Town of Le Quesnoy.**

Cambridge has a sculpture remembering this event and again Wreaths were laid. The Last Post sounded and the Church of St Andrew across the road flew the Tricolour.

This wreath laying was under lockdown rules so numbers were limited to four members of the RSA, The Chair of the Cambridge Community Board and the Cornet Player.

Usually this is a big event attended by many, but COVID has changed the rules for 2021.







## Yantai and Tauranga Celebrate 35 Years as Sister Cities

Last month marked the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of sister city relations between Tauranga and Yantai City in Shandong Province, China.

Yantai is well known for its wine and horticultural providence, producing apples, pears, cherries and wine. It is also an important centre for marine related research and commercialisation, with strong academic and research relationships existing between [Waikato University's Coastal Marine Field Station](#) and the [Yantai Institute of Coastal Zone Research](#). In addition to marine related research, both cities work together in areas such as sport exchanges, trade promotion and development, and tourism.

However, one of the most enduring relationships is the school exchange programme that exists between [Tauranga Intermediate](#) and Yantai No. 2 School. This relationship began in 2002 and over the past 20 years has enabled young people from both cities to develop lifelong friendships and improve their knowledge and understanding of different cultures.

Annemieke Hart, Tauranga Intermediate's International Director says "Tauranga Intermediate is extremely fortunate to have such a long-standing relationship with our sister city Yantai. International exchanges have helped students become global citizens while appreciating their own culture. As well as developing lifelong friendships, the exchanges give our students learning Mandarin, practical opportunities to put their language skills into practice. It has also helped Tauranga's youth 'sow a seed' for future pathways, whether that be further education, careers or travel."

To celebrate the sister city anniversary, a video presentation featuring Tauranga Intermediate students kapa haka group and city representatives was sent to Yantai ([watch it here](#)). In return, Yantai City prepared a series of artworks depicting the relationship between both cities (right).



## Tauranga International Student Wins Supreme Award for App Design

Local international student Michael Ren from Tauranga Boys' College recently won the senior Young Innovators Award for 2021 for his app design.

Michael is also part of the recently initiated Global Ambassadors programme - the aim of which is to engage and empower youth from diverse backgrounds to become local role models for diversity, cooperation and global citizenship.

[Read the full article in the Weekend Sun newspaper here.](#)

Michael Ren. Photo: Salina Galvan



## Nelson's Sister City Relationships Treasured



Mayor Rachel Reese and Councillor Trudie Brand showcasing a selection of treasured gifts from Nelson's sister cities, Miyazu, Huangshi and Yangjiang, which are on display in the Council Chamber at the Nelson City Council.



## Wellington Sakai Association Celebrates Running Relationship Milestone

By Raewyn MacGregor and Roxie Orr, Wellington Sakai Association

**At a dinner in November, the Wellington Sakai Association hosted runners who had previously represented our city in the Senshu International Marathon, to thank and celebrate them for their part in supporting our sister city relationship.**

We believe this running exchange in its most recent form to be a relationship that is unique globally.

Also in attendance were His Worship the Mayor of Wellington Andy Foster, His Excellency the Ambassador of Japan Ito Koichi, and other dignitaries, who all gathered to commemorate 25 years of Wellington's running relationship with Sakai. Throughout the evening, speeches and stories were shared about the unique value and positive impacts this relationship has, and those in attendance renewed their commitment to seeing it continue for many years to come.

Since 1996, a runner from Wellington has been invited to travel to Sakai to explore the city, make personal connections, and participate in the Senshu International Marathon alongside runners from around the world representing Sakai's other sister cities. This runner was historically selected based on an application and interview process, with the only requirement being that they could complete the marathon in enough time to avoid being picked up by the sweeping vehicle at the tail end of the runners. However, in 2016, the marathons in each city became sister marathons and, as a result, the selection process was changed.

Now, the first person to complete the Wellington Marathon who lives or works in Wellington and hasn't already been to Sakai wins the opportunity to represent the city in the next Ssenshu Marathon, opening up this relationship to a wider group of citizen athletes. The selection alternates between male and female runners each year, and the same criteria applies to the Ssenshu International Marathon, who have started sending their own runner to the Wellington Marathon.

A culture of running is one of the commonalities between Wellington and Sakai, between New Zealand and Japan. Running creates a great sense of community where everyone is out there doing their best towards a common goal. The runners' world of movement, competition, and camaraderie cuts across cultures and languages. The sense of togetherness of all runners at the start and end of a marathon, in many ways, is like the relationship that Wellington and Sakai engage in as sister cities.

Both cities provide homestay, sightseeing and cultural opportunities during their stay. During the dinner, Stephen Day from Wellington Scottish Athletics Club, who helped organise the event, and other previous runners spoke of the lifelong relationships that they made with their homestays and supporters, and how these experiences were in many ways the most gratifying and memorable of their exchanges, with special hospitality and graciousness. As was repeated many times over the evening: even more than the marathon, it's about the people.

Wellington Sakai Association is proud to facilitate the ongoing relationship with the two marathons and is looking forward to the exchange resuming in the future.

Special thanks go to Wellington City Council, The Embassy of Japan, Stephen Day and the Wellington Scottish Athletics Club, and the runners who attended and shared their experiences.

### Links to previous runners' experiences:

[Senshu International City Marathon - A Report from Stephen Day](#)

[Miyuki's NZ Travel Notes](#)

[Wellington's special Japanese citizen-runner exchange](#)





## “Reading Beijing” Book Display Opened at Te Awe Library, Wellington

By Leteicha Lowry, Wellington City Council

**A book display has been set up in Wellington's Te Awe library to celebrate 15 years of sister city relations between Wellington and Beijing.**

A number of books were donated by the Beijing Capital Library and Beijing Municipal Government for the display spanning the topics of sport, Chinese literature, Chinese history, Chinese folk tales, and children's books.

The display invites Wellington community members, young and old, to learn about and celebrate Chinese culture through literary works. The display will run for two weeks from the 6<sup>th</sup> of December 2021.

The library display will be paired with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Capital Library of China and Wellington City Libraries. The MoU will be valid for three years from its signing date and is an agreement to foster mutual support and cooperation to benefit both libraries and their users. Activities between the libraries may include exchanges of management level delegations, exchanges of library staff, and cooperation on library activities through promotion, loans of publications, and academic forums.

This project marks the final celebration to commemorate the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sister city relationship. Celebrations opened in February with an event at the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, attended by Mayor Andy Foster and, by video, Beijing Mayor CHEN Jining, Ambassador to China Clare Fearnley and Chinese Ambassador to New Zealand WU Xi. A series of online meetings have also taken place between Beijing and Wellington across 2021 to discuss various topics; “Smart City” Seminar, “Two Zones” Policy Promotion, Tourism Promotion, and Business Environment Seminar.

Beijing and Wellington have had strong ties for many years as friendly cities since 1994. This status was officially upgraded with the signing of a sister city agreement in May of 2006 by former Mayor of Wellington Kerry Prendergast and Vice Mayor of Beijing Sun Anmin. The agreement was signed during the Sister Cities New Zealand 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference.

## Living in a Changed World, Senior Youth Reunion and Forum

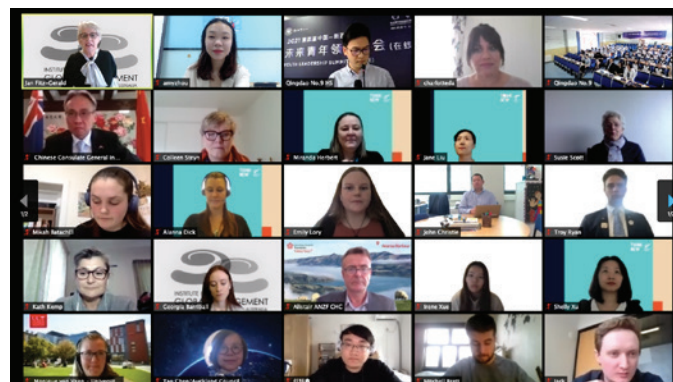
**Celebrating global connections**

By Jan Fitz-Gerald, President, Institute of Global Engagement New Zealand & GCNZ Director

**The Institute of Global Engagement New Zealand delivers a series of annual youth leadership and global citizenship events with schools and students in China and New Zealand.**

In July, and in conjunction with the Qingdao Municipal Education Bureau and Foreign Affairs Office, Shandong, China we hosted an online youth leader's forum to ensure we could all keep in touch and continue with important relationships. The initiative brought together 75 student participants from schools and summit alumni and 34 international education colleagues and local and central government officials from the sister cities of Qingdao, Auckland and Dunedin and a large delegation from Qingdao's Education Agreement partners in Christchurch (signed during the last youth leadership summit held in Christchurch, 2019).

We were grateful for the wonderful support of the many colleagues in New Zealand who attended the official opening with a special thanks to guest speakers Miranda Herbert, Director, Greater China for Education New Zealand Beijing, Alistair Crozier from the Asia New Zealand Foundation and Wang Zhijian, Consul General, Chinese Consulate, Christchurch. Managing over 100 participants in an online capacity was somewhat daunting - we cannot wait to get back to celebrating global connections in person.



Some of the online forum participants.



Government representatives and students from Qingdao who participated in the event held at Qingdao No. 9 School

## JET Programme 2021 Participants Depart

By Chloe Doole, Specialist for Cultural Affairs/JET Programme, Embassy of Japan in New Zealand

**For many years sister city relationships and the JET Programme have been interlinked and mutually supportive of each other.**

In November, 72 New Zealanders began their new lives in Japan as Assistant Language Teachers (ALTs) or Coordinators for International Relations (CIRs) as participants of the Programme. Nine have commenced their respective roles in Osaka Prefecture's Minoh City, the sister city of Lower Hutt.

Before their departure, Minoh JETs received the kind invitation to speak with Hutt City Mayor Campbell Barry, Hutt Minoh House Friendship Trust (HMHFT) Chair Cr Brady Dyer, and HMHFT member Michelle Gibson on a virtual call. This valuable opportunity helped the JETs to



deepen their knowledge and perspectives of the Hutt-Minoh relationship, as well as realise the importance of their roles as cultural ambassadors to encourage people-to-people relationships.

There are also other JETs who began their work in Nonoichi, sister city to Gisborne, and Shinagawa in Tokyo, sister city to Auckland. Even during these uncertain times, the JET Programme will continue to motivate young New Zealanders to serve as a bridge between Japan and New Zealand, and reinforce our sister city relationships.

We wish all the JETs the best of luck as they begin their new endeavours in Japan.

## Darfield High School Japanese Exchange goes Digital

By Hayden de Burger, Year 12 Darfield High School Student

**Over the past two weeks, we have been talking with a group of Japanese students from Yubetsu where our sister city Hokkaido in Japan is.**

We have been sharing stories of what we are doing, like watching the Olympics, or showing our lunches as they are very different from Japanese lunches. They found it quite strange to see all of us right next to each other: in Japan, they still have COVID and social distancing. It was hard to explain but I think we got the message across.



It has been great for us Kiwi students to practise our Japanese and for the Yubetsu students to practise their English. It has been a great alternative; usually, DHS would send students on an exchange to Yubetsu but, with COVID-19, this hasn't been possible. We will continue to speak with these students for a long time to come and our speaking skills will improve a lot.

## The New Zealand-Japan Sister City Webinar Series

By Taiki ITO, Assistant Director at CLAIR Sydney

**CLAIR Sydney has been holding a webinar series on New Zealand-Japan sister city relationships for employees of Japanese local governments that have sister city relationships with local governments in New Zealand.**

This webinar series aims to encourage sister city projects even during the COVID-19 pandemic. Following the first webinar held in late August that featured a presentation by CLAIR Sydney's Executive Director, the second webinar was held on 27<sup>th</sup> October.

In the second seminar, Mr Tomotaka Ishizu, Director of the Japan Information and Cultural Centre at the Embassy of Japan in New Zealand and Mrs Hiromi Morris, President of Sister Cities New Zealand, talked about the sister city relations and the current situation of the coronavirus pandemic in New Zealand. During the webinar, Mr Ishizu, Mrs Morris and staff of CLAIR Sydney received many questions, which led to a very dynamic exchange of ideas and an overall well-received session.

CLAIR Sydney will continue to engage in supporting the sister city exchange activities between New Zealand and Japan.



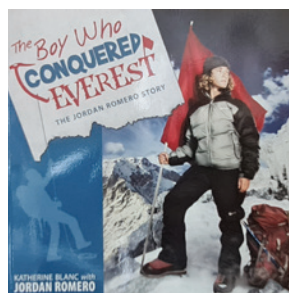
# Gisborne District Sister Cities Roundup Past & Present

By Jan Calder, GDSC Secretary

## The Boy who conquered Everest

A story of a young 13 year old Jordan Romero who climbed Mt Everest and had climbed the seven summits by age of 15½ years.

Gisborne Intermediate teacher Anna Wright and Wainui Primary School teacher Storm Dunn and Abraham Lincoln School, Palm Desert completed a two week study – both teachers had along with 28 other Gisborne educators over the last 20 years attended at least once a one-week course at McCallum Theatre's Aesthetic Education programme – a program where PDSCF sponsor the Gisborne educators' entries each year. The culmination of the two week study for the 640 students was a presentation by Jordan Romero at McCallum Theatre Palm Desert.

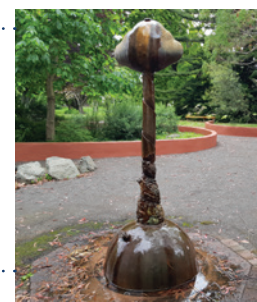


## Gisborne – Gamagori photo competition

An exchange of photos judged on by citizens of the two sister cities which commenced 2000 – enriches the visual knowledge to the citizens of both cities.

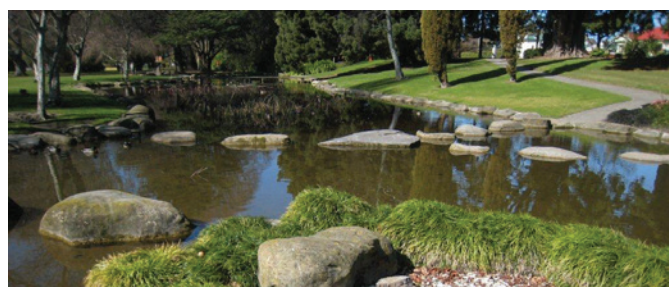
## The Raincatcher

Bronze, 1999. located within the Australian garden by well-known Australian sculptor Anton Hassell.



## Japanese Garden

The Japanese Garden at Gisborne Botanical Gardens commenced development 1996 with practical assistance and structural advice from Nonoichi's mayor and citizens.



## Palm Desert SC garden

Located at Gisborne Botanical Gardens, it opened in August 2000 has been designed to include 35 rocks sourced from Te Puke quarry and created by Californian artist Mike Watlin. A structure housing the Greig Cacti collection donated in the 1970's has most appropriately been included in this visitor experience.

## Artiste in Residence

An exchange programme between Gisborne and Palm Desert Sister Cities. Russel Jacques and wife Linda were hosted in Gisborne 2007 while Russell tutored and sculptured "Spirit of Sister Cities" which stands at street level outside H B Williams Memorial Library.



From left Linda Jacques; Gisborne Mayor Meng Foon; Russell Jacques; and Ying Foon stand beside the statue Russell created and gifted to the people of Gisborne City.

## Simultaneous Golfing

To the right is a newspaper article from a Palm Desert newspaper regarding a golf match to be played in two different millenniums simultaneously – Gisborne 9am 01/01/2000 & Palm Desert 12pm 31/2/1999



A News crew KESQTV3 spent 6 days in Gisborne setting up a direct broadcast to celebrate the turn of the millennium and observe any predictions of "IT failure".



## Taiko Drumming

A Palmerston North Taiko group visiting Lytton High School and facilitating a Taiko drum session using Gisborne Sister City's Taiko Drums which are housed at LHS.



## Bastille Day celebrations in Cambridge

By Jude Dobson, The New Zealand Memorial Museum Trust - Le Quesnoy



**The Waikato town of Cambridge celebrated its Sister City connection with Le Quesnoy on Bastille Day, and extended their French theme throughout the July school holidays.**

The Cambridge Le Quesnoy Friendship Association teamed up with the Cambridge Museum, iSITE, Library, and local businesses to enjoy some mid winter French fun.

The flags flying and the Town Hall lit up in French colours was just the start of celebrations as the Cambridge community embraced their friendship with Le Quesnoy.

Locals could start the day with delicious crepes or croissants, browse the French themed shop fronts and supermarkets, stop by at cafes for French Onion Soup or macarons and end the day with a subtitled French film at the local theatre.

Themed dinner options serving French wines and Coq au Vin were very popular. Diners were heard reminiscing about their visits to France and dreaming up plans to go again when circumstances allow.



## Connecting Youth - Cambridge & Le Quesnoy

By Jude Dobson, The New Zealand Memorial Museum Trust - Le Quesnoy



Above left to right: Cambridge locals Zach and Ethan Harvey and Reine and Madeleine Pryor at Cambridge Museum in the July school holidays about to start their Lego challenge to build an Eiffel Tower and write postcards to children in Le Quesnoy.

### The youth of Cambridge have long standing relationships with Quercitains.

When the Cambridge Brass Band, with many teenagers amongst them, travelled to Le Quesnoy for the liberation centennial commemorations in 2018, they experienced the renowned French friendship, first hand. Residents surprised them by knowing the words to Pokarekare Ana just as well as the ones to La Vie en rose.

The recent July school holidays saw even younger ages starting their French connection, as they played with Lego.

The Eiffel Tower Lego Challenge produced many towers, some as high as two metres tall, complete with French Flag atop. All promoted discussion of the New Zealand connection with France.

The "Letters to Le Quesnoy" activity introduced children to the pen pal connection of old.

Primary aged children wrote messages and drew pictures about their life as a young Kiwi on Cambridge - themed post cards. They were then posted en masse to Chevray Primary School in Le Quesnoy, France.

With the local pre-school in Le Quesnoy 'École Maternelle Docteur Averill' named after Leslie Averill, the first man over the wall in 1918, the young recipients are sure to know about New Zealand.

The special friendship between Le Quesnoy and New Zealand that started in 1918 is not only shared between individuals of all ages, but by community groups, towns and cities half a world away, generation after generation.