

To: Messrs H W J van Dam, C Traas and S Traas

Dear Hans, Kees and Stef,

Noeline and I have just returned to New Zealand after a couple of weeks visiting friends in Germany and then bus-touring around Serbia, Montenegro, Croatia (Dalmatia) and Slovenia.

On behalf of Athol Tennant descendants present at the 3 May Ceremony, Craig, Noeline and Alastair, Aileen, Lyane and Nicky and Craig O'Brien, we want to say a huge THANK YOU. If we address our heartfelt thanks to the "names" associated in our minds with the organisation of the ceremony, it is not to forget that the accolades belong to the whole village of Nieuwdorp. If, for example, we were deeply moved (as we were!) by the floral tribute to Athol from "the Government and people of New Zealand and the NZ defence Force", then I would have to tell you that we were "blown away" when the children of Nieuwdorp filed past to lay individual floral tributes on the wall of the Memorial. Such memories will remain with us so long as we live.

Within a couple of days of the ceremony, our second son (Philip Athol) and daughter Raewynn, who lives in Australia, had found and downloaded from the Web, film clips, movie and "youtube" video of the ceremony and circulated these among family and friends in New Zealand. I have since forwarded copies of these to Defence HQ in Wellington in part to acknowledge the support of the Chief of Air Force in arranging for the RNZAF to be represented at the Ceremony by SQLDR Susie Barns from London and Mr Paul Vinkenvleugel from the NZ Embassy in den Haag and, also as information clips that might be used in "Air Force News" a bi-monthly publication of the RNZAF.

With the passing of the years, it is likely that future visits of Athol's immediate family, the three of us still active, will be limited. However, thanks largely to the work of your group, you may be assured that links between the Tennant wider family and the Nieuwdorp community will remain. Finally, Noeline and I in Christchurch, together with Marilyn in Wellington and Aileen in Mosgiel (near Dunedin) reiterate that there is always an open invitation to visit our country and we should all welcome the opportunity to return some of the hospitality that we have enjoyed in Zeeland.

Yours sincerely

Craig and Noeline, Marilyn, Aileen and their families