

WHO ARE THE VIGNACOURT YOUTH EMBASSY?

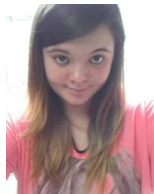
Suzana DA SILVA

04/09/1997



Let me introduce myself My Name is Suzana DA SILVA, I'm 16. The first time I heard about the project, it was in the youth centre with my friends. At first, I wasn't very interested because I don't like History very much in class and I was sure not to find any of my ancestors in the photos. But soon after that, I began to really like the project, the people and activities, and enjoyed the extraordinary meeting with Channel 7. I never thought that this story would grow to such a large scale. I love this project and thanks to it, I've learned to care about WW1 History.
[Suzana topped her class in English in 2014]

Emilie LEJEUNE 08/03/1999



My name is Emilie LEJEUNE and I am 14.

I am one of the teens involved since the beginning

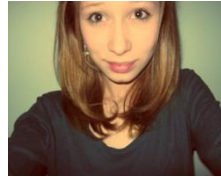
I wanted to be in this project because I want to know more about what happened in 1914-1918. We could have had a life like this, for example, I could have been a soldier's wife. My grandfather came with me to the youth centre and he recognized his father in one of the pictures. He recognized other people from the village too

Angeline LOIR 21/03/1996



My name is Angeline LOIR, I'm 17 (soon to turn 18 years old) I am part of the Youth Embassy team for about two years . At the beginning I invested time in the theatre project, then participated in the Anzac Day event. I often go to the military cemetery with one of my friends to talk together. This is a very peaceful place which has a very particular emotional effect. We talk about a lot of things and we try to imagine these soldiers and what their life was like, how they arrived here, how they died, were they volunteers or not etc I have always been intrigued by the few photos of Australian and British soldiers hung on the walls of the Vignacourt city hall. When I heard there were other Australians' photos, I was very touched. So as soon as I heard about the Youth Centre project around the plates, I was very interested and volunteered. After I watched the documentaries, I found very moving the happiness that those photos gave to Australian families. That's why I want to share this project with other youth from here and there. With other team members we decided to make a presentation to classes to let people know about the collection and the work that is done to showcase it

Carolane MAQUAIRE 03/04/1998



My name is Carolane MAQUAIRE and I am 15.
I got involved in the project in its second year

Natacha PAYEN 21/9/1998



My name is Natacha PAYEN and I am 15. I got involved with this wonderful project in its second year. I first invested time in it thinking that it was just a good way of passing time and meeting people, and by degrees realised I was wrong - it's more about living history. Finally I truly appreciated the story of our heritage and I took a real liking to the project and the photos. This project has given me another view vis-à-vis the first world war. At school we focussed on the horror of war; it finally now feels good to know that in the midst of all this carnage, in our village the men had time for rest, relaxation and some happiness, captured by their smiles in the Thuillier portraits in the farmyard. They found at least a brief respite. I also better understand the reasons they came to France to fight.. Beyond the historical point of view, this project is also at a personal level an extraordinary human adventure that I would not miss for anything.

Teophile BOURGEOIS 29/09/97



My name is Teo Bourgeois, I am 16. . I am one of the teens involved in the project from the beginning.

Harold BOURGEOIS 14/08/2000



My name is Harold BOURGEOIS and I'm 13. I am one of the teens involved in the project from the beginning.

I am interested in this project because it is something exceptional and based upon Australia about which I now have some background knowledge, and it concerns WW1 which is an interest of mine. I love Australia for its beauty and its unique animals and am looking forward to seeing my first kangaroo. I have enjoyed sharing my time with the other people involved in this project.

Hugo BOURGEOIS 13/02/1997



My name is Hugo Bourgeois, I am 16. I am one of the teens involved in the project from the beginning.

I am involved in this project because this story interested and intrigued me. We have the opportunity to discover these photos and all these unknown soldiers thanks to the work that has been done by the Channel 7 team and the people who digitised and restored the plates. I enjoyed making the wooden presentation plaques for the 2012 ANZAC Day in 2012 using the woodwork machine with Jean Luc Godard during the February holidays.

Virgil SÉGUIN



09/08/1997

My name is Virgil SÉGUIN, I'm 16. I am one of the teens involved in the project from the beginning.

I like to come to the youth centre to spend time with my friends.

I took part in other projects and in a theatre workshop for two years.

Through this "Australian" project, I'm involved in a lot of activities and have enjoyed discovering this photographic collection and my village's history.

Lucile WERKIN



Project Coordinator, President of Maison des Australiens Association, Fluent English GROUP LEADER/MENTOR My name is Lucile WERKIN and I am 32 years. Along with my colleague Valerie Vasseur, then Director of the youth centre I was inspired by the story unearthed by Laurent Mirouze and given international recognition by the Seven Network documentary crew and Peter Burness the WW1 Specialist historian from the Australian War Museum who accompanied them. Valerie and I could see the exciting potential for a living history project drawing on the visual and performing arts to creatively "re-story" the history of the Aussie Diggers and the people of Vignacourt who welcomed them. In researching their heritage the teens would learn new skills, expand their knowledge and grow in self-confidence. Our ultimate dream was to make them Vignacourt Youth Ambassadors. The teens have been inspirational in their commitment and they have prompted incredible enthusiasm in people of all ages in distant Australia and closer to home.

David CHOUR



Videographer, Cameraman, Editor-Truquiste and Director, Actor, Fluent English

CAMERAMAN (1 of 3)/PRODUCER/DIRECTOR

My name is David CHOUR and I am 32 years.

I am multilingual: English, German, Teochew dialect, French

I have always been interested in filmmaking. At age 14, armed with a Hi8 camera I spent thousands of hours developing and filming short fictional features and documentaries in my hometown in Somme region. I was awarded 2 grants to finance these projects, one from a regional and one from a national scheme.

I then completed university studies at Paris 7 graduating with a degree in Performing Arts (Film and Audiovisual Studies) and went on to obtain a Professional degree in movie production from the famous school Les Gobelins (Paris). In 2012 I trained in Australia as a documentary filmmaker and more recently in the Paris region as an Editor - Truquiste (post production special effects editor /software operator). Whatever free time I could find during my studies was taken up working on various sets for hundreds of professional engagements as an actor for movies, films, TV movies, TV series, and as both an actor and a model for numerous commercials. This provided a thorough working knowledge of the professional demands of both the small and large screen; and be fully aware of the realities of the business. Currently, utilising internet tools 2.0 I have concentrated on finding my niche as a director. My goal is to produce quality videos, to fully utilise my varied experience and know-how built over the past 10 years. I am now engaged in collaborative projects which will benefit my network of professional partners.