



ANNOUNCEMENT:

AWARD OF THE JOHN DUNMORE MEDAL – 2025

The Fédération des Alliances Françaises de Nouvelle-Zélande, in association with l'Ambassade de France, is delighted to announce the award of the John Dunmore Medal 2025, to regional Councillor, historian and ornithologist, Michael Lee. The medal is awarded in recognition of Mr. Lee's significant and on-going scholarly contributions to the Natural History of Aotearoa, via his work on 18th and 19th century French navigators, explorers and naturalists.

Mr. Lee's nomination, presented by Dr. Philippe Gerbeaux, President of the France Aotearoa Sciences Technologies and Innovations (FAST!) network, outlines the nominee's significant achievements and contributions. Notably, over a decade of research and publications in scholarly journals culminated in Mr Lee's 2018 book-length study, *Navigators & Naturalists: French Exploration of New Zealand and the South Seas (1769–1824)*.

The book was praised by experts in the field, including the late Professor Dunmore himself:

*"Dear Mr Lee, I recently completed reading your voluminous tome on the French voyages, and I would like to offer you my warmest congratulations on this impressive work. I was fortunate to find a copy in a local bookseller, as being somewhat retired these days, I was unaware of its publication until a few weeks ago, hence my slight delay in expressing my admiration for this work.
Sincerely, John Dunmore"*

Mr. Lee is currently conducting further research on the 1827 visit by Dumont d'Urville and has started work on a second book that will form a useful addition to the 2018 volume. Moreover, in 2024, Michael generously gave of his time to share his expertise with the FAST! and Alliance Française networks, delivering a hugely popular series of

lectures on the topic across the motu (*Paihia, Pōneke-Wellington, Whakatū-Nelson, Otipōti-Christchurch, Akaroa and Tāmaki Makaurau-Auckland*).

Mr Michael Lee, we thank you and congratulate you. We especially look forward to the next tranche of your research, for the new scientific knowledge and human understanding you bring to these important early connections between France and Aotearoa.

Nā reira, ngā mihi nui, Félicitations !

Deborah Walker-Morrison,

Waipapa Taumata Rau | University of Auckland

For the Fédération des Alliances Françaises de Nouvelle-Zélande Incorporated,
Tāmaki Makaurau, 29th July 2025.

The John Dunmore Medal is awarded in recognition of a major contribution to knowledge and understanding of the part played by the French people or the French language in the development of historical, intellectual, scientific, economic or other aspects of world culture, preference being given to the Pacific region.