



## **FRIENDS OF MAURICEVILLE INC. NEWSLETTER 2023**

*Formed in 2008 to preserve and promote the historical cultural heritage of Mauriceville and its associated districts, by working together with pride and in a spirit of co-operation.*

The 15<sup>th</sup> AGM of The Friends of Mauriceville Inc was held in the Kopuaranga Hall at 2pm on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2023. 17 members and friends were present.

Looking back over the past ten months since the last AGM in July 2022 we have not had any committee meetings but some things have been happening. The Mauriceville Fair was a highlight. Covid has had some impact as well. There has been an increase in awareness of the Friends of Mauriceville group and that is very encouraging in a time when many volunteer groups are having difficulties recruiting new people. We reached 52 members including 17 Life Members.

One of our goals is to build a greater community and to achieve that by helping each other. We would like to encourage other groups to share their need for help with us as we have members willing to help out. Let us know if you are holding a working bee or an AGM and we can pass that information onto our members. We hope to also have social gatherings like a BBQ to encourage us all as we work together. We are a TEAM where “**T**ogether **E**veryone **A**chieves **M**ore”.

**The following reports were presented at the AGM, or highlights written and recorded down by secretary.**

### **CHAIRMANS REPORT. Prepared by Shaun McGillicuddy**

Welcome to all Friends of Mauriceville

Well last year COVID delt to me so I could not attend the AGM but fingers crossed at the time of preparing my report no signs this time of COVID round two.

First, where has the past year gone. I think while we all had thoughts of getting behind projects etc, weather was not a team player over the summer period. I think it would be fair to say life for most people seems to be getting busier and we all seem to run out of time to do some things. While we have not achieved some of the things on our list, we have still made some progress in other areas.

Again, this year FOM attended the Mauriceville Fair. Many thanks to those who helped on the stand. It was great to see interest from many people asking about history of the area. It is important that we can share as much information as possible so its not lost years on down the track.

I would also like to welcome the many new families that have chosen Mauriceville area to make it their home in the last couple of years. We have seen several new homes and even a couple subdivisions happen. Lets hope we have a better summer this year and we can get some fun day BBQ's going where everyone is welcome to attend and meet new friends of the area.

Many thanks to the Committee for the last year and to Peter for being the glue for FOM.

Sadly, I will not be standing as Chairman this year as I am trying to take more of a back seat so I can get some of my own projects completed. I have stepped back from several groups that I have been involved in over the past 2 years. Thank you all for your support.

Shaun McGillicuddy,  
Chairman

We were very pleased that at the election of the new committee for 2023/24 Shaun has agreed to stay on as chairman for a further year.

**TREASURERS REPORT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR – Peter Christensen**

Our financial year ended on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. It has been an interesting year with the COVID disease affecting so many things we have been doing during the year but thankfully we will soon be back to normal or at least the new normal.

Financially the year has brought some success and other projects under way. On the Income side membership we have received \$430 up from \$180 in previous year with a total income of \$862.75

The expenses. The cost of managing our website by Technology Solutions was \$310.73 The signage project of \$868.00. A total Expenditure of \$1440.36

This leaves the Friends of Mauriceville with a credit balance of \$9107.34 and we have a petty cash float of \$20.

**FRIENDS OF MAURICEVILLE FINANCIAL REPORT**

INCOME		2022/23	EXPENDITURE		2022/23
Membership	\$	430.00	Website	\$	310.73
Whispering	\$	80.00	Stationery	\$	97.49
Donations	\$	250.00	Hall Hire	\$	40.00
Interest	\$	102.75	Other	\$	20.00
			Project Signs	\$	868.00
			Advertising	\$	104.14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>862.75</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1440.36</b>
ANZ b/fwd	\$	9684.95	ANZ C/fwd	\$	9,107.34
Petty Cash	\$	20.00	Petty Cash	\$	20.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>10567.70</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>10,567.70</b>

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT -- PETER CHRISTENSEN**

I have endeavored to maintain contact with all of our members from time to time, in addition to the annual newsletter. The aim to increase the awareness of our organization and encourage renewed interest in membership subscriptions. At the end of 2022/23 year there were 17 Life Members plus 35 other members a total of 52. The highest membership in previous years was 44 in both 2013/14 and 2017/18, So far in the 2023/24 year we have 44 financial members. We also have had two life members now choosing to continue paying annual membership. We have email address for 81 people who we have sent emails out to during the year.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS:** The Annual Membership runs from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March. To those members who have already paid their membership I say a very big Thank you. For those who have (a round to it) can I suggest do it now. The Annual subscription will remain at \$10 for the next year. Payments can be made directly to our bank account

**ANZ 06-0689-0278183-00.** Please remember to add name and subscription in the reference, code, and Particular fields. or send directly to P Christensen 6 Wycliffe Place Masterton 5810. For first time Internet users it is also helpful to send an email to treasurer (me) so I can confirm its paid to the correct account. I am sending out receipts by email.

## **WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT -- Peter Christensen.**

The Website and Social Media are proving to be a valuable source for promoting the Friends of Mauriceville and other activities in the Mauriceville and surrounding districts.

The updated website “WWW.SCANDINAVIANTRAIL.ORG.NZ” was designed to make it easier to manage on a smart phones and is working well. I have been able to add extra photos and stories in PDF’s. If you have some photos, either current or historic, please email them to me or let me know how I could get a copy of them. One way is to take a photo of the photo. Also if you have any articles of information that we could add onto the website it would be great especially stories relating to descendants or the early settlers in the area.

Facebook Page, “FRIENDS OF MAURICEVILLE” and its open for anyone to join in and add information.

We still have copies of the Whispering Roads booklet selling for \$10.

We also have a big supply of brochures that were printed a number of years ago. There is some information that needs to be deleted or blanked out but I believe we could do a household drop of them along with information about what’s happening as a result of efforts by Friends Of Mauriceville.

We are looking for a volunteer to manage our facebook page and website. If you have an interest in internet and social media we would like to here from you.

## **GROUP REPORTS**

### **1. Mauriceville North Church**

The Mauriceville North Church is run as a Perpetual Trust and have three trustees. Jana Seymour, Brendon Larsen & Gavin Lister. They have an open Facebook Page  
**MAURICEVILLE NORTH CHURCH**

In April there was a successful two-day working bee with Seymour family members coming from Hawkes Bay and Auckland. The interior paintwork was washed down with the use of hired scaffolding, branches were trimmed from trees, there was some water blasting and cleaning of Hans and Karen Larsen’s grave where a drain was drilled to release surface water. The trustees were very grateful to receive a grant from the Mauriceville/ Kopuaranga Fair Committee. This will be put towards the cost of four new windows to keep the building watertight. The windows will be made by the joiner that made the last two replacements, in keeping with the originals as per the conservation plan.

Some plans have been drawn up for the cross atop the steeple. The cross is in a sad state of disrepair and some research will be done as to whether another can be made. It is more complicated than it may appear and as for mounting it, a great challenge yet to be resolved. The property has been kept very tidy thanks to regular mowing by Gavin and Joshua Lister. We have also had an offer to donate the cost of an annual spray for cluster flies which is much appreciated.

### **2. Scandinavian Syndicate – Logie Atkinson**

(No written report but Chairman Logie shared some information)

This is separate identity that was formed as a group outside of council and the Mauriceville West Historic School Committee.

The main purpose of this entity was for fundraising with all excess funds going to the Mauriceville West Historic School Board account.

We lease land from the Council who in turn donate the lease money to Mauriceville West Historic School Board Account.

Stock is purchased, or donated, and we make and sell baleage each year.

This entity has been running since 2012, when council took over the running of the old cemetery and school land.

### 3. Mauriceville West Historic School 2023 Report – Logie Atkinson

(No Written report received)

Shaun has purchased a kitchen at a reasonable price, so the challenge is to remove hundreds of staples from the walls of the middle room, prepare and paint that room. Katrina has done a lot of this work. Then install the kitchen.

Negotiations have been underway for some time



SCHOOL — 1940.

Keith Mortensen, Ron Neighbours, Garth McKeown, Ivor Williams, Murray Nielsen, Stan Williams, Harry Lehmstedt, Elva Neighbours, Violet Trass, Doreen Godden, Elva McKeown, Mervyn Lehmstedt, Ron Terry, David Osborne, Ray Terry, William Osborne.

with Power Co to reconnect the power. Power Co have said they will be visiting the site in the near future to ascertain why the switch board was removed and power disconnected.

We are looking at putting in a new fire place for heating and also purchase a generator for power.

An AGM was held in March with a new chairman Logie Atkinson.

This photo of the School in 1940 may highlight some family history.

### 4. Mauriceville Lutheran Church & Burial Ground 2022 Report – Bruce & Jo Farley

#### a. Report 4 May 2023

2023 Report to Friends of Mauriceville Inc.

At the time of writing this report we await confirmation from our lawyer that the Mauriceville Burial Ground has legally been transferred into the ownership of the Masterton District Council. We signed our documents for title transfer in April. This has been a journey of 5½ years since we first approached Council and it has not been an easy experience with them. Their lack of enthusiasm meant we had to continually drive the project and it has even required ourselves engaging a solicitor to identify and initiate the correct legal process for the title transfer to be completed. All the while I have endeavoured to keep the weeds controlled and most of the grass mown to enable access for the many visitors the cemetery does attract. Some of your members perhaps feel we could have done more to develop the site over these 5 years. We had a vision to tidy the frontage and create a monument and information board on site. Gareth Winter and I had a shared goal here. As you will recall Brendon Larsen has the bell in storage after his renovation of it and I had planned a signpost and signage to identify the cemetery better from the road now the building has gone. However it seemed presumptuous and premature to follow through on any of this without consultation with MDC to ensure that what we did met their needs going forward as well. Sadly they have ignored my numerous requests to meet with them to advance this and as such nothing has been done. What now? Our expectations are that over the next month or so the MDC will commence their guardianship of this valuable historic site for your community. I am prepared to liaise initially with MDC with my thoughts and share the information we hold if they are interested but due to changes to our personal circumstances we are not in a position to assist beyond this.

Our Trust and the St Francis Lutheran Congregation intend to make a financial contribution to assist with site development, presumably to MDC, but due to the unexpected legal costs we have incurred this will not be as much as intended. In due course The Mauriceville Lutheran Church and Burial Ground Trusts Board will be dissolved. Please accept this, likely our final, report to your group and we wish you well on your multiple projects.

Bruce and Josephine Farley Trustees (along with Noeline Wells) Greytown

**b. Update to report 10 June**

I can confirm that MDC are now formally the guardian of our Lutheran Cemetery at Mauriceville West.

I have had telephone and email communication with Ian Osland of MDC and he speaks encouragingly for the future including an information board to include perhaps the bell.

In fact there will be a burial there this Tuesday, which is nice as MDC initially wanted to close it but I asked they engage with the community first.

So, further to our report could you update your members in this regard.

Additionally, for a number of reasons, we will be closing our St Francis Lutheran Church congregation to become a Preaching Place subsidiary of St Pauls Lutheran Church in Wellington.

Our final service to formally do this will be Sunday 27 August, 9.30am at St Andrews Union Church, Main St (north end opposite Kuratawhiti St) Greytown, where we have had a shared fellowship for the past 8 years or so.

May we extend an invitation to FOM members who may wish to share this significant service with us, but I ask they RSVP to me (email or even just a text) so we can be prepared.

Kind regards and wishes for your efforts.

Bruce Farley 0210422488 [bruce.jo.farley@gmail.com](mailto:bruce.jo.farley@gmail.com)

**5. Friends of Anzac Bridge -- Glenys Hansen**



Chairman's Report April 2023 read by Jack Hayes.

Greetings to all.

March 2022 saw the committee make the decision not to hold a formal ANZAC service at the bridge. This was very disappointing but with COVID 19 cases on the increase we decided it would be irresponsible to encourage a potentially large gathering with limited potential for separation. The option was there for any individual to pay

their respects privately. Preparations for the 2023 service are complete and the committee are in anticipation of welcoming you all back to our site of remembrance at the bridge. The last year was not uneventful despite abandoning the service. The centennial celebrations of the bridge opening were a tremendous success and enjoyed by all attendees. Every aspect of the day went as planned from the formal recognition of the fallen through the re-enacted ribbon cutting and first car across to the most enjoyable lunch at the community centre. Even the weather, although threatening at start, played the game. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee members and all others who made this success possible. Glenys Hansen, treasurer and secretary of the FOAB, has produced and published an excellent book on the history of the bridge. The book titled "A Century of Service", tells of the need for building of, and the history to date of the bridge. Glenys presented the book at the lunch with it being very well received. The book will be available for sale at Pukaha after the service on the 25th or can be ordered via email. With DOC having fenced part of the Millar Reserve to the bridge track off, a working party formed a detour by recycling a lot of the existing timber and pegs. Hatuma Lime and Ramsay Earthmoving, once again supplying and delivering new

crushed lime for the infill. Our bridge community are truly fortunate and incredibly grateful for the extended support from these two local companies over the years. Another achievement was the replacement of the decaying information boards at the Millers Reserve and placement of a new one at the bridge itself. Two successful applications to Eastern & Central Community Trust and Tararua District Council for funding saw grants of \$1000 & \$700 received. Maintenance of the site has been a bit unsteady and I think this is largely due to staff changes at DoC and although the grass is regularly mown, spraying of the surrounds and the walking track has been neglected. This really needs to be addressed with DoC to see what their commitment is with this and if they are not going to take responsibility for spraying, as we had been indicated they would, we need to arrange a regular working party or individual roster. Once the weeds get away it is so much work to have everything presentable again. Other maintenance in the next year or two will see a need to paint the bridge again and replacement of the original flagpole as it is rusting from the inside out. I'm getting a price for the pole now from my steel manufacturer in Levin. Looking forward to seeing you at the bridge on ANZAC day. Kind regards, Peter Bryson. Chair FOAB.

Jack Hayes was also able to update us on some interesting facts.

- The ANZAC bridge was built and opened in 1922.
- The Friends of Anzac Bridge now own the bridge by purchasing it for \$1
- The land that the bridge is on is owned by DOV and they control it.
- DOC claim they look after the grounds but FOAB actually do it.
- On Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2022 the "Friends of Anzac Bridge" (FOAB), held a centenary celebration. There was a re-enactment of the original cutting of the ribbon by Mary Hansen. Mary was frequently asked to harness up her horses to pull out cars stuck in the river crossing. They have found 6 original photos of vehicles being pulled out in 1918. At the celebrations they re-enacted opening of the bridge with same vehicle, same colour ribbon, a granddaughter of the original person who cut the ribbon and she had the original scissors to cut the ribbon. The opening was followed by lunch at Eketahuna club.
- FOAB have also published a centenary book and key rings available to purchase. Glenys wrote and published a book based on the bridge history and how it was built and financed. It also contains a biography of the nine serviceman and one servicewoman whose names have been recorded on the bridge.
- People can donate a native tree as they want to increase tree coverage in the area.
- FOAB are encouraging primary schools in the area to get involved in the project.
- A Traffic Management quote for the ANZAC service 2023 was given by Whaka Kotahi as \$7500, so another option was found to be more effective.
- FOAB are also using Zoom technology at their meetings to good effect with committee members from afar away as Auckland and Christchurch able to be involved.
- FOAB is a financial member is \$20 per year. FOM is a member.

#### 6. **Kopuaranga Hall Society.**

No written report but Sue Barber updated us with the latest progress with the water tanks and hope it will be connected in next couple of weeks.

7. **Mauriceville Clarke Domain** -- (Jennifer Barre).

No written report received in 2023.

The hire of the domain is managed by the Masterton District Council who also maintain the property.

8. **Mauriceville Fair** -- (Jennifer Barre) (Highlights recorded)

Officially the group is called the Mauriceville & Kopuaranga Fair however is more commonly promoted as The Mauriceville Fair which is held on the first Sunday of December each year (apart from 2021 when cancelled due to Covid). The 2022 fair was



held on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December. The fair allowed Friends of Mauriceville to have a stall with no charge. Special thanks to Shaun & Katrina McGillicuddy for setting up the stall and Lisbeth Gronberg for answering lots of questions. Also thanks to Henry for supplying the cow and milking machine.

There were about 70 regular stall holders and provide live entertainment.

9. **Mauriceville School.**

No direct contact has been made with School as yet.

10. **Manawatu Scandinavian Society.** -- Val Burr.

The Manawatu Scandinavian group have paid their annual subscription to join FOM and are looking forward to further contact with the Mauriceville area. No report received.

Peter Christensen has been invited to their AGM on 16<sup>th</sup> July to speak on the Friends of Mauriceville with them. (The date was changed so a different speaker will be invited this year)

**AGM ELECTION OF OFFICERS for 2023/24 year.**

Chairman

Shaun McGillicuddy

Secretary/Treasurer

Peter Christensen

Media & Website Administrator. Newsletter Editor Membership Secretary, Project Managers

As there were no nominations it was agreed other positions be filled at the next committee meeting including;

Committee.

It was proposed that all present at AGM be appointed onto the Committee unless people opted out or declined.

Committee members

Katrina McGillicuddy, Lisbeth Gronberg, Willie & Julianne Buick, Brian Ammundsen, Jack Hayes, Logie Atkinson, Maurie Halberg, Norma Dunn, Katie Wyeth, Sue & Ross Smith, Ian Trass, Stuart & Nerolly Hoar (Accepted by email). Catherine Nelson & Lyn Dawson by internet.

## PROJECT REPORTS.

### 1. Settler Section sign design and erection.



We have produced the new Settlers Sections Sign. We now need to look at how to display the sign behind the settler's monument at intersection of North, South and West road. We hope to erect the sign in the very near future.

### 2. Section boundary posts --

We have been looking at the design & manufacture of the signs by Men's Shed. We haven't got to the costing stage as we are yet to decide on size of the pegs.

We are wanting to find some actual measurements of the frontage of the sections to establish the boundaries. We know the section area size but not the actual measurement. The maps all show that the boundary lines are all parallel and continue across the road so once established should not be too difficult to mark them out.

### 3. Signage at the Lutheran Cemetery

In the report from Bruce Farley he mentioned in his report this year that he is negotiating with the District council about signs showing where the graves are laid out and names of all those buried in the cemetery.

At last years AGM it was suggested by Val Burr and supported by Anne Odogwu that a place could be built at Lutheran Cemetery where people could sit when they are visiting family graves. This was done in Palmerston North cemetery but students in memory of a man whose wife died of cancer and he use to go and spend time there. Maybe this could be included in the design for the display boards to include a seat. This could also include the Bell Tower.

### 4. Future project. Upgrade existing signage opposite Kopuaranga Hall and review other existing signage. After the AGM some of us viewed the sign and found the following;



# **INFORMATION NEEDED.**



KOPUARANGA HALL SIGNAGE Across the road.

After the AGM we looked at the sign across the road from the Hall. Can anyone who reads this newsletter tell us what the wording is on the sign at the top. Maybe you have an old photo that we could use to have the sign made again. In looking at photos of the original unveiling it does not include the top sign so must have been added at a latter date.

The top sign appears to have the heading; KOPUARANGA and below that there appears to be years with wording beside it. There appears to be two columns.

As the sign was erected in 1971 we are hoping someone may have a remember it.

We also noticed the bottom sign, although engraved, the highlight white paint has fallen out making it difficult to read.

The bottom sign WORDING IS BELOW

## **THE SCANDINAVIAN CAMP**

This locality, originally known as the Scandinavian Camp, marked the southern limit of the Seventy Mile Bush which stretched northward to the Takapau Plain. It consisted of a group of barrack-like slab huts which housed the Danes and Norwegians who were the first settlers of the Mauriceville and Eketahuna districts. The first occupants arrived by the ship ENGLAND in 1872 and were followed by further parties but as their land had not been surveyed none were able to take possession of it and had to be accommodated for two years in the camp under most primitive conditions. During this time they were employed in building the road northwards to Napier. It is estimated that 700 people occupied the camp during its existence.

Erected 1971

After doing some Google searching online I have found some reference to the Kopuaranga sign.



Mac Larsen at Sign above which says;  
SCANDINAVIAN CAMP  
BURIAL SITE  
400m down Donavans Rd on  
left across railway



Unveiling the sign Lutheran pastor [Mr Steike] speaking at Kopuaranga plaque unveiling with no signboard above.

Ian Cameron speaking at the unveiling of Scandinavian Camp memorial plaque but no top signboard



Jack Williams, Wairarapa Member of Parliament, speaking at Kopuaranga plaque unveiling with no top sign board.

Print of Scandinavian Camp sketch used in 'Happiness is sharing your heritage

