



## **FRIENDS OF MAURICEVILLE INC. NEWSLETTER 2022**

*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 13<sup>th</sup> AGM of The Friends of Mauriceville Inc was held in the Kopuaranga Hall at 1.30pm on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2022. Eighteen members and friends were present which was a great response considering Covid is still roaming around causing most of the 13 apologies received. Unfortunately, among the apologies were our chairman Shaun and his wife Katrina both were struck down 3 days ago with Covid. Shaun was able to submit his Chairmans report which was read by our previous chairman Harold Devonport.

Looking back over the past nine months since the last AGM two committee meetings were held and good progress has been made on projects. 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.

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

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT. Prepared by Shaun McGillicuddy (Read by Harold Devonport)**

Welcome to everyone for my first report.

When I took on this role I had only 1 main item in mind and that was Community.

This is still the same today.

I thank you for the support over the past 12 months for FOM in general. Covid has stalled a few things again over that year but as time moves on, I'm sure we will have the chance to get together in many ways. These could be from a Sunday afternoon BBQ at various location around the Community, to a working bee. If you are able to give an hour or 2 at a working bee, this makes a big difference. I.e., 10 people give 2 hours of work and this works out to be 20 hours of work and in the past we have seen that amounts of work done over a period of time changes things. One that comes to mind is the West School project. Being involved in this has been great fun and enjoy seeing the great old School coming back to life with a purpose in sight. The outside was water blasted thanks to Brendan Larsen and now is near the completion of painting. Thanks to all those involved.

FOM has worked on signs and has progressed well with the drive from the working group.

I see FOM as a hub for all the Community and a go to place for all the groups in the Community. I also take the view from the outside looking in. I.e. If I am trying to find out about Mauriceville, then one easy starting point can be FOM. From there we can have branches or groups off it. FOM could also be the body that can apply for funding to provide funds for a project as we are an Incorporated Society. While we would like to see our own area and project grow, it simply can not be done alone in small groups, and this is why we all need a community group to help one another.

So, for now I thank you all again and look forward to maybe seeing you at a Community Project or BBQ in the future

Shaun McGillicuddy

Chairman

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

Our financial year ended on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. 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 we have received \$180. We have also received \$60 from sale of Whispering Road booklets, Bank interest we have received \$8.76 a total income of \$248.76

The expenses show a big increase which is explainable and planned.

During the year we have upgraded our website at a cost of \$1650. The cost of managing our website by Technology Solutions was \$506.81 however that included a payment for the previous year of \$185.15. The other large expense was for the signage project of \$1760.14 where we erected new signs at Kopuaranga Hall and on corner of Hall Road Hastwell. These two signs had steel frames and an iron roof over them made by the Masterton Mens Shed. Other expenses included Newsletter \$30, Postage & courier \$73.16, Stationery \$45.48 and Hall hire \$74.50. A total Expenditure of \$4255.32

This leaves the Friends of Mauriceville with a credit balance of \$9684.95 and we have a petty cash float of \$20.

In April, as a result of email contact, we have received a \$250 donation towards a project of FOM with assurance of a similar donation next year.

A full financial sheet was also presented.

## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT -- PETER CHRISTENSEN**

I propose that 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 2021/22 year there were 17 Life Members plus 15 other members a total of 32.

In April 2022 I sent out an email to every email address I could find on our records from past years. I discovered some address's were no longer valid. In a second email I sent asking if anyone was able to refresh me with their emails. I also received a good response for new and renewal of memberships plus a large donation. We also have had two life members now choosing to continue paying annual membership.

We have email address for 75 people who we have sent emails out to during the year.

I am pleased to report as at the 6 July 2022 we have 17 life members and 29 other members a total of 46 including 3 group memberships. This is the highest paid membership since 2017 with 44 paid members.

**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, Particulars fields. or sent directly to P Christensen 6 Wycliffe Place Masterton 5810. 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.

Special thanks to Denise Devonport for a lot of editing work she had done with the support of others as it was well prepared for an extensive upgrade of the website.

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.

Phoebe Balle created a 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.

## **GROUP REPORTS**

### **1. Mauriceville North Church -- Nerroly Hoar (Highlights recorded)**

Nerroly has retired from being a trustee of the Church after over 30 years in that role. She introduced Jana Seymour as being born in Masterton and grew up in the Hastwell area for many years before moving away and now in Auckland. Jana’s grandmother was Enid Seymour who wrote the Souvenir book on the Historic Mauriceville North Church. Jana along with Gavin Lyster join existing trustee Brendon Larsen to be the three trustees for the church.

The church has been well cared for by Gavin Lyster and his son as they keep the lawns mowed and clear clutter flies from within the church. They are planning a working bee in September.

### **2. Scandinavian Syndicate – Willie & Julieanne Buick**

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

The main purpose of this entity was a fundraising idea 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.

Last year, with prices very high to purchase replacement ewes, we were very lucky to have; Vaughan Marfell, Steven Pound, Bill Taylor and Jim Weston donate hoggets’ for fattening over the winter. The proceeds from these hoggets enabled us to purchase new ewes for this coming season.

This entity has been running since 2012, when council took over the running of the cemetery and school land. It now has to come up for public lease.

Since 2012, \$16,375-00 has been paid into the Mauriceville West Historic School Board Account to go towards maintenance of the buildings..

Also, \$24,150-00 paid to MDC as lease for the land, is donated back to the Mauriceville West Historic School Board Account.

So this means the fund raising of the Scandinavian Syndicate has put \$40,525.00 towards the maintenance and improvements of our Historic School Buildings.

### 3. Mauriceville West Historic School 2022 Report – Willie & Julieanne Buick



We are so thrilled to be able to report that the Outside Painting of the School Building is nearly complete.

Many Thanks must go to Shaun and Katrina McGillicuddy. Shaun offered to spray paint the building if we prepared it... Without Shaun we would still be waiting for a team to help us

complete this job. Shaun and Katrina gave up several week-ends to help us prepare and paint. Thanks also to the people who came and gave us a few hours on the preparation job. This also includes Brendon Larsen who water-blasted the building for us.

We also want to thank Jeremy Sharp from The Stihl Shop who once again supplied a cherry picker at no cost to us.

Masterton District Council who supplied the paint.

We still have under the eaves to do, some windows, and the barge board at the bottom. Not too much now, and we are waiting for the weather to warm up a little.

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

A full itemised Expenditure from 2013 was presented showing a total of \$55,235-87 has been spent on the renovations plus many hours of volunteer workers and donations of material.

An option for the old cemetery would be to seek Jack Hayes assistance to clean the headstones.

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

It is nice to be able to inform you, as many will have read in the local newspaper, that Masterton District Council (MDC) has voted to accept guardianship of the Mauriceville West Cemetery site. This has been a particularly long journey since we first approached them in September 2017 where we have experienced varying degrees of enthusiasm, communication and staff changes, but we feel we are in the right place now for the sustainable care and respect this important historic site deserves. We will point out here that a condition of MDC from the outset was that we removed the church building from the site, a fact they unfortunately continue to misrepresent in their publicity.

We are particularly pleased with their community consultation finding that a majority want the cemetery to remain open and available to the public. Their report states; ... *submitters highlighted the strong connection they feel to the place and the land. Key points included:*

- *A peaceful place to be near their ancestors, reflect, and reset*
- *Future desire to be laid to rest at this burial ground*
- *Family history and ability to trace back generations*

Our next step is identifying the process to transfer the site from a Lutheran denominational cemetery to a community cemetery. Then we hope to partner with MDC and Wairarapa Archives to create a historic information board, including plot locations, on site and incorporate the bell and tower from our Church. This has been gratefully sand blasted and painted by Brendan Larsen and awaits the chance to ring out again.

A financial sheet also presented.

Bruce & Jo Farley  
MLC&BG Trust

Jack Hayes mentioned that he had met Bruce Farley and offered the services of the New Zealand Remembrance Army to restore the graves in the cemetery. The group have restored the servicemen's graves in the Archer Street Cemetery. The group are willing to

teach others how to restore or maintain graves. They need the family and the Church support to do the restoration. They have a great deal with the company who produce Bio Shield (similar to 30 seconds) where they spray and leave it for a month before proceeding to clean it.

**5. Friends of Anzac Bridge --** Glenys Hansen & Jack Hayes (Highlights recorded)



The ANZAC bridge was built and opened in 1922. On Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2022 the “Friends of Anzac Bridge” (FOAB), will be holding a centenary celebration. There will be 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. Glenys is writing a booklet based

on the bridge history and how it was built and financed. It will also contain a biography of the nine serviceman and one servicewoman whose names have been recorded on the bridge. FOAB hold an ANZAC service every year and have up to 350 people present followed by a cuppa at Pukaha. In December the granddaughter of Mary Hansen will cut the ribbon. There will also be an old car on display similar to those pulled out of the river. Following the 11am ceremony there will be a lunch Pukaha.

FOAB have 60 Life Members and recently sent out a survey to all members to gather in various parts of the history.

New signage has been obtained and erected at Millers reserve.

We have a good repour with Department of Conservation Recreation manager and they keep the lawns mowed.

Also the local limeworks provide lime free for the walkway.

Jack Hayes pointed out that when the bridge was proposed Eketahuna Council initially didn’t want to pay for it so the district raised most of the funds and Eketahuna eventually helped.

Miller Reserve is the last remaining part of the original 90 mile bush and FOAB are planting more native trees and both Councils are very supportive. They are looking to improve the Rest Area and propose to put in a self-composting toilet and a water supply.

FOAB have applied for and received financial grants from Eketahuna Community Board and Trustbank grants.

**6. Kopuaranga Hall Society.**

There are ongoing negotiations about the fate of the Kopuaranga School and the administration of its use by the Kopuaranga Hall Society. They would like to transfer that responsibility to Department of Conservation.

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

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 will be held on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December. The fair was started by Norma Dunn 25 years ago and she is still actively involved today. They have had between 2000 and 5000 people attend the fair each

year and distribute the profits to various community groups, including the Fire brigade



however at this stage they have turned that down as they have sufficient funds.

Some of the funds raised has been used to provide storage on site for fair equipment and the Barrell Train.



There are about 70 regular stall holders and provide live entertainment. The volunteer fire brigade has helped every year in various voluntary roles including Traffic control, first aid.

This year the fair will also have WiFi available due to improved cell phone reception in the area.

There have been a number of people in

motorhomes stay overnight at the domain which also improves security of the domain.

The Mauriceville Fair would like to become members of FOM and Peter Christensen said they will be very welcome as we have also received the Manawatu Scandinavian Group as members.

### 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. Val did however pass on a suggested project of a seating area at the Cemetery for people visiting members of there family buried on site.

## PROJECT REPORTS.

### 1. Settler Section sign design and erection. (Nerrolly & Peter).



We have produced the new Settlers Sections Sign. This has been printed on Aluminium by Greenlees Print for \$368. It was to be revealed at AGM however it was in Covid lock down at Shauns House as he was going to bring it out today. The sign is 1200x1200mm so was too big to go in my car. We now need to look at how to display the sign behind the settler's monument at intersection of North, South and West road. It could be a frame similar to the previous signs made by the Men's Shed.

### 2. Section boundary posts -- Stuart Hoar

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.

Peter Christensen has had contact with Archieves (Mark) and he has found some maps and also the ownership land titles for the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. 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 to difficult to mark them out.

### 3. Signage at the Lutheran Cemetery

In the report from Bruce Farley he mentioned 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.

Suggested project from 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.

#### AGM ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Chairman	Shaun McGillicuddy
Secretary/Treasurer	Peter Christensen
Website Administrator.	Peter Christensen
Newsletter Editor	As there were no nominations it was agreed other positions be filled at the next committee meeting including; Newsletter Editor, Project Managers, etc.
Committee.	It was proposed that all present at AGM be appointed onto the Committee unless people opted out or declined.
Committee members	Stuart Hoar, Nerroly Hoar, Ian Trass, Logie Atkinson, Willie Buick, Julianne Buick, Katrina McGillicuddy, Lisbeth Gronbaek, Norma Dunn, Brian Ammundsen, Janice Osborne (Palmerston North), Jean Thompson-Church (Palmerston North)

Names of other active supporters however declined being on committee due to other commitments which is very acceptable, and we thank them for their ongoing support in other ways.

Harold Devonport,	Denise Devonport,	Glenys Hansen,	Jack Hayes,
Phil Patterson	Lyn Patterson	Merve Lehmstedt,	Cheryl Christensen,
Jennifer Barr,	Christine Littlejohn	Tony Thomson-Church	Jana Seymour
Bruce & Jo Farley	Lyn Dawson		
Phillipa Devonport-Johns,	Brendan Larsen	Beverley Lawrence,	