

## FRIENDS OF MAURICEVILLE NEWSLETTER

### JULY 2016

The seventh Annual General Meeting of The Friends of Mauriceville Inc. was held on 22 June 2016 at 7pm in the Kopuaranga Hall. Thank you to all of you that sent apologies. Many of you are spread far and wide throughout the country and attendance is not an option for you, but your continuing support is encouraging to the small group of us working to fulfil the aims of our organisation locally.



#### *FOM Inc. The Scandinavian Connection*

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

We were delighted to have Kay Flavell with us for this meeting. She is currently out from the USA and is based at the NZ New Pacific Studio at Mount Bruce. We will always be indebted to Kay for her vision in establishing FOM, her tireless research and consequently the publication of her books; the sales of which have been the main source of funds for our organisation.

Officers elected were:

**Chairman** Harold Devenport

**Correspondence Secretary** Jean Thompson-Church QSM

**Minutes Secretary** Stuart Hoar

**Treasurer** Denise Devenport

**Newsletter Correspondent** Nerrolly Hoar

**Committee** All those present at the AGM were invited to be on the committee. However, if you were not there, but would like to be on it, please advise us, and you will be put on the list of people to be notified of any meetings.

#### **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

**\$10 per annum or \$100 for Life Membership**

Unpaid subscriptions are due for payment now please.

Many of you have already paid for the 2016/2017 year, so please check your receipts before paying again.

**Payments can be made directly to our bank account**

**ANZ 06-06890278183-00 \* Please remember to put your name and sub. in the reference field.**

**Or alternatively you can post your cheque to Friends of Mauriceville Inc. c/- 308 Opaki- Kaiparoro Road, RD2, Masterton 5882**

**RAINBOWS OVER MAURICEVILLE** Kay Flavell.

These books have continued to sell very well and there are now only about 30 copies left. While you have the opportunity, you may like to consider purchasing extra copies for other family members. These are available through our web site or at the Wairarapa Archives Queen Street Masterton at a cost of \$45. A complementary copy of A Scandinavian Trail, also by Kay, will be included if you purchase through our web site.

**MAURICEVILLE WEST RESERVE**

The Reserve Committee are very pleased to report all the progress that has been made over the last twelve months. The shed (old toilet block) at the school has been renovated at a cost of \$7,800 dollars. They purchased sufficient timber (of the correct profile) and there is enough left over to renovate the other little shed (Girls' Shelter Shed) at a later date. All work has been done as authentically as possible. The paint for the project was donated by the Masterton District Council, which was appreciated, and a group of ladies in the district are waiting for good weather to commence painting.

The sign with the list of known burials has now been erected at the old Public Cemetery behind the school and a second sign has been made for future use. Charlie Fairburn from the MDC arranged payment for the signs. The current list is the culmination of a lot of research by Julianne and Barbara and as mentioned previously the sign is made of aluminium composite material for longevity.

Please note as a fundraiser for the reserve, there is some firewood available for sale.

**(Dry Macrocarpa) Please contact Willy Buick 06-3725736**

**MAURICEVILLE NORTH CHURCH**

The trustees are pleased to report that the walls, windows and the roof have now been painted, although in summer another coat is to be applied to the northern and eastern walls.

The church made a picturesque setting for an Ammundsen family wedding in January. It is a promising sign for the preservation of our historic buildings when the descendants of the immigrants show they value their Scandinavian heritage, by returning and using these places.

Visitors may have noticed a new limestone track on the northern hillside. This is of a lower gradient than the main track and it is hoped it will provide a safer route for those viewing graves. Hatuma Lime (Mauriceville) generously donated the lime and has agreed to provide additional lime to top the track up as required. The trustees are grateful to Gavin Lister for initiating and organising the

project and very appreciative of the many helpers who marked and boxed the track and barrowed lime in the rain.

The next proposed projects are to replace two original rotting windows and to bring the gates into town so the hinge straps can be repaired.

We are proud to have recently had the church selected to feature in a book **A Guide to over 60 Early NZ Churches HISTORIC CHURCHES**- Linda Burgess -Published by Random House 2016.The feature also tells something of the hardships of the early settlers at the Kopuaranga Camp and is accompanied by excellent colour photographs of the church.

The Mauriceville North Trustees 1912 minute book has been taken to the Wairarapa Archive and been scanned for safe keeping. It will be there as a resource for those of you researching the history of the church, its members and activities.

### **KOPUARANGA HALL**

The local Hall and Reserve Committee are continuing with upgrading. The kitchen and meeting room have been upgraded with new wall lining, benches, electrical and plumbing. Stage one of the new toilet improvements has been completed with new plumbing, wall lining and an additional toilet in the Ladies' Rest Room. Work is due to start on the Men's toilet and the foyer in the near future.

### **MAURICEVILLE COUNTRY FAIR**

The annual fair at the Clarke Memorial Reserve will be held on **Sunday 4 December**. If you or anyone you know is interested in having a site at the fair please send an email to [grampypampy@gmail.com](mailto:grampypampy@gmail.com). There will be entertainment-The Emerald Brothers' Band, food and vintage machinery. Cash out Eftpos will be available. The reserve is a lovely place to spend a day!

### **INTERVIEWING PAST AND CURRENT RESIDENTS OF THE AREA**

FOM member Ian Trass (Masterton) is prepared to conduct oral history interviews for anyone who would like to record their voice and stories for posterity. Please contact him at [trassis2@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:trassis2@yahoo.co.nz) or phone 06 3770760

### **EMAIL ADDRESSES**

If you receive this newsletter by mail but do have an email address would you please advise us? Also, if you are moving house or changing your email address, would you please put us on your list of people you notify?

[www.scandinaviantrial.org.nz](http://www.scandinaviantrial.org.nz)

Email: [info@scandinaviantrail.org.nz](mailto:info@scandinaviantrail.org.nz)