



FRIENDS OF MAURICEVILLE Inc

Newsletter 2024

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

The 14th AGM for the Friends of Mauriceville Inc was held in the Kopuaranga Hall at 2pm on Sunday 14th July 2024. 19 members and friends were present plus 10 apologies were also recorded. Its great to have local people come along to AGM and want to get involved. Unfortunately we were unable to get an internet connection so could not have Zoom participation by friends in other part of New Zealand.

As a group we established a stall at the Mauriceville Fair for the second year in a row and found many people in the crowd were receptive for promoting Friends of Mauriceville with the result we gained new members and sold a number of Whispering Road booklets. Special thanks to the Mauriceville Fair for providing us with our site. We are planning to have another site at the Mauriceville Fair on Sunday 1st December 2024 so please enter it in your diary and plan to come along

The following management reports were presented and recorded at the AGM.

1. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** presented by Shaun McGillicuddy.

Welcome to all Friends of Mauriceville

Well last year has passed and I'm sure they are getting faster. While it would be fair to say life for most members seems to be busier than ever but somehow some of our team have found time to be busy in the Mauriceville Community.

Signs have gone up by the Settlers Monument, Erection of signposts at some historic sites around the area especially South, West and north road. We were asked to partake in the Fair again and pleased to say that it was very successful. Our site had many visitors interested in the area and that is pleasing to see. A big thankyou to those involved. Our awareness of FOM is greatly increased for the good of the district and history.

Looking ahead, work has been done on a shelter at the Mauriceville Cemetery (Previously known as the Lutheran cemetery). We have had a couple meetings with the Council and some clean-up work has been carried out by Council contractors. We have been lucky enough to have some assistance from a company to build this shelter. There are still several projects on the go at this stage like, Promoting FOM at Mauriceville school. Producing brochures and futures signboards at cemetery. Some additional Historic signs. Mauriceville Fair 2024 is on 1st December.

As you can see it has been a busy past year and a lot of the project have been led by Peter. A huge thanks to Peter for all the work behind the scenes. He seems to be the glue holding us all together. To all members of FOM I thank you for the work you have done. You only need to look at the list of what we have achieved above, and this could not be done without you.

Again, we have seen some families come and go over the past year. Please reach out to these new families and welcome them to the great area of Mauriceville. Now more than ever we need to be a community as times for many people are getting hard, so let's be that friend and say hi. You never know when you may need them.

And on a last note, I remember last year trying hard not to stand again as Chairman, but I buckled and took it on for my last year. That time has come for me to depart. It is time for me to had over to someone to carry on the charge forward for FOM. I have reached a stage where my tank is empty and need to step back. Im sure with the odd poke from Peter and the new Chairperson FOM will continue in a positive direction. Thanks to you all again for your support. Shaun McGillicuddy.

2. **TREASURERS REPORT** presented by Peter Christensen

The last financial year has seen a good growth in membership to be 60 in this past 2023/24 financial year bringing in \$440 including 17 life members. For those who are calculating why the different total amount shown is because sometimes people pay multiple years membership which affects the total shown. We sold a number of Whispering Road booklets at the Mauriceville fair. Donation from the Lutheran Church for projects at the cemetery including a shelter and signs of \$7500. We received donations from a couple of our members totalling \$310 to go towards special projects. The Total income for the finance year was \$8728.27. Expenditure totalled \$1160.73. The balance at end of March 2024 was \$16664-88

INCOME	AMOUNT		EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT
Balance Brought Fwd	9107.34		Website	325.00
Membership	440.00		Postage	20.00
Donations	310.00		Print & Stationery	79.47
Whispering sale	125.00		Hall Hire	111.46
Lutheran Church	7500.00		Project Signs	515.53
Interest ANZ	318.27		Advertising	89.27
Postage	20.00		Other Memberships	20.00
			Balance Carried Fwd	16664.88
TOTAL	17825.61		TOTAL	17825.61

3. **MEMBERSHIP REPORT** presented by Peter Christensen

As I look back over the past year I am encouraged at the response of people to become financial members of Friends of Mauriceville inc.

Two years ago I reported we reached 32 members with the highest record was in 2021/22 year of 45 members since 2008 when the group was formed.

Last year we had reached 52 members which was a new record number. This year I can report at 31st March 2024 we had reached 60 members.

I believe one of the reasons for the increase has been our presence at the Mauriceville Fair with a stall and I propose that we do that again on the Sunday 1st December this year.

We have had some response for membership from the Website as well

I hope that if you have some ideas and suggestions how we can promote membership that you will let us know. Word of mouth and personal recommendations also go a long way as we need to also reach out to the young people.

I look forward to seeing a new record set in this next financial year.

4. **WEBSITE REPORT** presented by Peter Christensen

During the year I have arranged with the controller of the website AJ Hunter who has given me the ability to Change some more sections of the website. I am able to add PDFs and photos with comments on each one. Plus change the committee and contacts.

I am hoping to add PDFs with information for each of the signs that have been erected around Mauriceville west. I would appreciate anyone who is able to provide additional information that can be added to the website plus any photos.

If anyone else is willing to take on the website I am happy to pass it on.

We will look into the possibility of a new website for Friends of Mauriceville

GROUP REPORTS.

1. **MAURICEVILLE NORTH CHURCH** submitted by Jana Seymour

Active trustees are Jana Seymour and Gavin Lister, my apologies for my non attendance. We became the church trustees at the end of 2022. There are many wonderful local people involved in the day to day maintenance of the church, I'm up in Auckland but try to travel down regularly.

Quite a bit to report as Gavin and I endeavour to give the church bit of a spruce up.

Last year we had a working bee on the interior of the church, and did a little work on the graveyard. The flies were numerous! And in recognition of the ongoing problem with them Ray Seymour has offered to pay for a yearly visit from the fly busters

Currently we have new windows being made in Masterton. They are to the original specifications and will future proof the church for some time.

We are hoping they will be installed in the next few months. We were able to pay for this significant investment with funds invested and then gifted to the church by Enid Seymour.

Many thanks to John McDonald from Rigg Zshcokke and Mark Williams for their help with our window project.

The trustees and volunteers plan to paint the exterior of the church at the end of this year.

Other plans are to hire an arborist to do some tree trimming at the front of the church. We'd also like to improve access for the elderly and differently abled by extending the steps on the left hand side of the church to allow easier access to the left side path.

Many of the graves in the church need attention.

Gavin continues to do a fantastic job with mowing the church grounds.

In the future I intend to look into a grant from the Heritage Trust to replace the church roof. Looking ahead to 2031 when the Church will be 150 years old we'd like to have all restoration projects completed and plan some commemorative events.

Warm regards everyone.

Jana and Gavin

2. MAURICEVILLE WEST SCHOOL RESTORATION

Scandinavian Syndicate Chairmans report

Have a new committee. Thanks Jim, Rachael and Braden for sorting out the banking and paperwork. We made 1000 bales of hay and had a very good turn out for carting.

Thanks Andy and Bridget Sims for the use of their sheds for storage. Fertiliser was applied to the cemetery and road paddock. Thistles were sprayed at the cemetery paddock. I also topped the rank grass.

The old ewes were sold and lambs were sold as stores.

Thanks to Gary and Lesley Graham for donating us 10 ewes. Thanks to everyone for helping

Mauriceville West Historic School Chairmans report

Have a new committee. A lady from Powerco looked at the power connection and pole. She was happy with everything. I have to see DOC about connecting etc.

Thanks to Brodie Barre for mowing the entrance to the Lutheran Cemetery. Thanks to Reuben for mowing around the school. Thanks to Sue for spraying the Tennis Courts around the School. Thanks to Peter Christensen for making the signs around the district where the old buildings were.

Also, we removed the old sink and fitted the new unit, made by Shaun McGillicuddy.

Thanks to Gavin and Mike Parsons (plumber from Eketahuna).

The Masterton District Council has taken over the running of the Lutheran Cemetery.

That was our year.

3. MAURICEVILLE CEMETERY.

The following email was received from Bruce Farley on 27 July 2023 RE Donation of St Francis Wairarapa Congregation Funds.

As you are aware we are working through the final stages of closure of our Lutheran congregation here in the Wairarapa.

Additionally, the historic Mauriceville Lutheran Cemetery site (and past home of our church) was successfully transferred to the Masterton District Council & Burial Ground Trust Board funds.

We had a vision to establishing a suitable monument and information board at the cemetery that would share the church History along with a burial plan and register. It had also been envisaged to incorporate the original church bell and seating plus improved access from, the road as it is a pretty steep climb for many visitors.

Therefore, to support the future development of the Mauriceville West Lutheran Cemetery site we have determined to contribute \$7500 towards the project.

Unfortunately, due to our personal circumstances I am no longer in a position to project manage or liaise this key development as I had envisaged a few years ago. Thus included in our donation of this targeted funding we seek FOM's ability and willingness to manage and liaise with MDC to get it completed over time.

We ask to remain engaged with the project and will assist in any way we can. We take the liberty to comment that as much as the historic value of the site is very significant to the descendants and the community at large today any representation needs to be principally identify how the Lutheran Church and their Christian faith was a paramount focus for our ancestors and this site.

Thank you for your consideration. Yours sincerely Bruce Farley.

Mauriceville Cemetery Report 2024 Presented by Peter Christensen

The Lutheran Cemetery at Mauriceville officially changed ownership in September 2023 and is now under the care and control of the Masterton District Council.

The Council now have a contract for the upkeep of the Cemetery and as part of that contract they will mow the lawns as required but at least 4 times a year.

Since taking over they have already cleared a number of overgrown trees from the site which has made a big difference. A week after they took over there was a burial onsite which quickly got them into serious action to get it completed. They are looking at upgrading the front fence. The council are also using QR codes which when scanned by phone provide further information. We have talked about this previously in FOM by adding a QR code on our signs.

4. MAURICEVILLE FAIR presented by Geoff Donovan



The Mauriceville Fair 2023 was very successful with nearly 100 stall holders. There were over 700 cars parked on site. They did not have the helicopter as it caused lots of Health & Safety issues. They are not planning on inviting the classic cars as they are unreliable and take lots of space. The Eketahuna Fire Brigade do a fantastic job dealing with cars arriving and departing. The committee are finding it hard to get volunteers and the 8 committee members are all getting older. They start on Wednesday to set up for the fair and days after to pack up and clear rubbish. So far they have already 30 stalls for 2024.

Discussion. Special Thanks to Shaun & Katrina for setting up the Friends of Mauriceville stall giving us some shelter from the wind as well. As a special attraction a thank you for the use of Henry's cow and treadle milking machine.

5. **KOPUARANGA HALL SOCIETY** presented by Sue Barber

The Kopuaranga Hall committee is very small. The responsibility for care and running of the old Kopuaranga School has now been transferred back to DOC.

We have managed to get the grounds around the hall under control and mowed,

The water supply has now been completed and all water is filtered before coming into the hall.

6. **FRIENDS OF ANZAC BRIDGE** submitted their chairmans report.

Over the last year, the Committee of Friends of the ANZAC Memorial Bridge has had a change of guard. At our AGM, Peter Bryson stood down as Chair after 17 years serving our Committee well. Peter then accepted the position of Patron, Jack Hayes having resigned from the role but remaining as a committee member.

The Committee elected me to the vacant position of Chair of the Friends of the ANZAC Memorial Bridge. I have been a committee member holding various roles since 2014. I live just outside Masterton and have a connection with Eketahuna as my mother was born there and my great uncle is mentioned on the roll of honour at the Eketahuna War Memorial Hall. Our 2023 ANZAC Day service ran very smoothly as we acknowledged the contribution and service of nurses in the Defence Force. Our guest speaker was LtCol Michelle Williams who holds the role of Regimental Colonel for the Royal New Zealand Nursing Corps. We are grateful that our special bridge attracts such high-calibre speakers and this year was no exception.

I send a special thank you to the 8 students from Opaki School who came out to Kaiparoro in September to plant trees at the Bridge Reserve. They were very enthusiastic about planting the trees that had been supplied by Forest Home Nursery.

The Committee was recently contacted by Frances Walsh from the Department of Conservation. She has been tasked with overseeing the management agreements. I met with Frances at the Memorial Bridge in February to complete an annual review of our management agreement and update the health and safety plan. It was good to have Frances view our site and note the areas that require maintenance. We hope to continue regular communication with Frances and her team.

The ANZAC service for 2024 has been planned. We thank our piper (Dale Percy), bugler (Nikki King), the Air Cadet, and 10 Transport Coy who support us every year. I am confident you will all find the program enjoyable and we, the Committee, look forward to seeing you, and many others there.

Fiona Dransfield JP, Chair FOAB

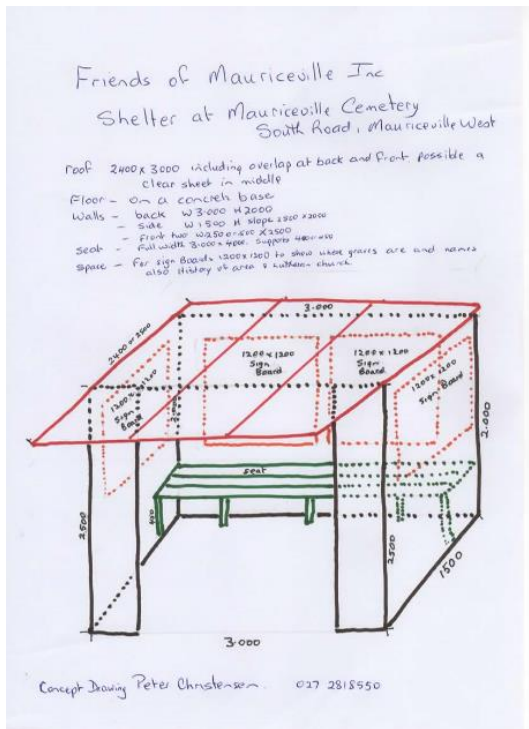
PROJECT REPORTS

1. **SECTION SIGNAGE PROJECT.**

The section sign project has been completed with its erection at the corner of North, South and west roads.



2. MAURICEVILLE CEMETERY SHELTER PROJECT.



Last year one of our members suggested having a shelter at the cemetery as she had seen one in Palmerston North and lots of people used it as they sat and meditated at the cemetery. Bruce Farley also indicated signage showing history. Shaun & I visited the council on 21st March to meet Ian Osland and one other staff member to discuss the Cemetery and the idea of a shelter. In discussions they suggested visiting the various shed builders in Ngamatawa Road for ideas and what they could offer. On the 16 April 2024 I was driving past Versatile and decided to stop and discuss the idea of a shelter. I met Jeff Woolford and his assistant. We talked about size and design and they felt this would be a great idea for the local UCOL group to take up the challenge as the assistant was qualifying as a builder at that time. Later in the day I received a phone call from Jeff said Versatile will design, Build and erect it on site at their cost. I accepted their generous offer.

The agreed plan will be about 3 meters wide and 1.5 meters deep, there will be a seat along the back wall and around the walls provision to place in future 4 signs 1200mm square. On the 22 April I met Jeff and Ian at the Mauriceville cemetery and we looked at best place to erect the shelter. The Council are planning to put a concrete strip for future burials with a grave each side of the strip and the concrete ready for future headstones. Also cremations and the idea of concrete strips for interring of ashes and a plaque on the strip Once this has been done we will put something on facebook and website. We will also be looking at creating a bell tower that is secure so that the bell cannot be removed but able to be rung,

3. MAURICEVILLE CEMETERY SIGNAGE PROJECT.

We are looking at designing display boards at the Mauriceville Cemetery to show the names of everyone buried at the site and where their grave is found. Bruce Farley had a plan drawn showing the areas of the cemetery and names and positions of the graves. There may be some names where actual site is unknown or not recorded. Sometimes ashes have been buried on a family site with no headstone or plaque. Another signboard will be to show the rich spiritual history of the Lutheran Church site including pictures of the Two Lutheran Churches on that site. With the shelter there will be space for up to four 1200x1200mm signboards.

4. HISTORIC PLACE SIGNAGE PROJECT.

Logie Atkinson has put in place posts on historic sites which we have placed a board with the name on it and a FOM number on it (the number will relate to brochure with history. The middle of number is the area its in, 4 for South, 5 for West, 6 Munro road.) They have been painted white with wording routed out and painted black. How many times have you driven past the old dairy factory on South Road and not realised there were some concrete remains left on site. We have put up a sign on South Road for

Forrester lodge, Old Coop Dairy Company, Lutheran Church, Mauriceville Cemetery, Mauriceville West School, and Mauriceville West Cemetery. On West road we have signs for



Blacksmiths, Post Office. Forresters hall. We will soon erect signs on Munro Road up at Gravel Pit and Poets Cottage. On North Road a sign for Abattoirs and for Larsen House and on South Road a



boarding house.

Discussion as to another sign where Catholic Church use to be.

If you have Photos or information about any of these historical sites we would love to hear from you so we can share the information. Please email the secretary.

GOALS FOR THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT.

1. To see the Shelter built at the Mauriceville Cemetery.
2. To prepare and establish signage inside the Cemetery shelter.
3. To prepare a booklet with notes on each of the Historic sites around Mauriceville.
4. To assist in establishing the Mauriceville West School as a meeting place for the community.
5. To promote membership of Friends of Mauriceville and make it better known in the Community.
6. To make marker boards for each area of the cemetery (i.e A-K) to match the new cemetery signboards with the names entered on it.
7. To upgrade the website to be more interactive,
8. To look at QR codes for the various signs around Mauriceville.
9. To promote FOM as being the umbrella for other groups in the area in order to encourage each other.
10. Design and build a Bell Tower at Mauriceville cemetery.
11. Encourage the sharing of family history and Genealogy of Scandinavians in the area.

Photos or information on the History of Mauriceville please email to the secretary.

Peter Christensen p.christensen@xtra.co.nz 027 2818550

Website; scandinaviantrail.org.nz

I enjoy genealogy and have nearly 50,000 names on my computer connected in some way to our family. A number of these connections are Scandinavian connections and this year I have been able to answer 3 enquiries from people trying to track down their ancestors. I found them on my computer. Enquiries to my personal email address p.christensen@xtra.co.nz

A BIG THANK YOU TO SHAUN MCGILLICUDDY FOR BEING FOM CHAIRMAN FOR PAST 3 YEARS. I am sure He will continue to help and support us in the years to come.

The following Committee was appointed at the AGM.

FRIENDS OF MAURCICEVILLE Inc. 2024/25 Committee.

The AGM made the following appointments.

Chairman. To be confirmed at next committee meeting.

Secretary/Treasurer; Peter Christensen

Membership Coordinator.

Website Administrator.

Historian.

Committee to include

From **Masterton;** B & R Christensen, S & K McGillicuddy, N Hoar, M & S Rowland, I Trass

From **Mauriceville;** L Atkinson & S Sparks, L & E Whiteman, N Dunn, W & J Buick, B Amundsen, L & E Whiteman

From **Kopuaranga;** R & S Smith, S Barbour

From **other areas;** *Palmerston North* M Halberg, *Lower Hutt* C Banks, *Porirua* J Larsen, *Upper Hutt* C Nelson, *Christchurch* L Dawson, *Auckland* J Seymour.

We plan to have some members online using Zoom at meetings provided we have phone reception.

In addition, there were some FOM members at the AGM who have opted not to be on the committee but remain active supporters for events and projects. I believe this is also an important role for the ongoing development of Friend of Mauriceville in the community. There may be others who prefer to do the practical rather than the committee work. From the secretaries point of view I plan to send emails to each EPR's member for upcoming events and projects that have been outcomes from the committee as needs arise. There may be other members from around the country who feel they could contribute in some way e.g research or travel to an event. We will discuss this concept at next committee meeting.

This group could be called the **EPR's Group** (Events, Projects, Research Support Group). At present the group includes:

H & D Devonport, S Hoar, L Gronbeak, C Christensen.

THE NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 2PM ON SUNDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 2024.

VENUE TO BE CONFIRMED. (options of Masterton, Kopuaranga Hall, Mauriceville West School).