

Friends of Mauriceville Inc.

Newsletter #1

New Pacific Studio Mount Bruce, RD 1, Masterton, New Zealand: www.newpacificstudio.org

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Our mission: to preserve the cultural heritage of the Mauriceville and Hastwell districts, and to encourage cultural exchanges among artists, writers and musicians in Scandinavia, Scotland and Aotearoa New Zealand.

April 5,
2009

Kia ora,
greetings
everyone,
from a
bright
autumnal
day on

which we put the clocks back an hour. Welcome to the growing community of Friends of Mauriceville Inc. Our membership drive began in late 2008 at the Swenson Family Reunion in Masterton, and has continued via letter to all residents of Mauriceville; at the March AGM of the Scandinavian Club of Manawatu; and at the Scandinavian Festival and 14th Scandinavian Gathering held in Auckland last weekend, March 27-29.

Our membership now includes over forty families scattered all over New Zealand. They share a deep love for Mauriceville and wish to help preserve its buildings and monuments, as well as to help the area play an important role as part of our national heritage and cultural tourism landscape.

Timeline of work completed Nov 08-March 09:

2 Nov 2008 Letter mailed to RD2 Masterton inviting membership of FOM

8 Jan 2009 Letter to FOM reporting incorporation of society.

4 March meeting with Jean Thompson-Church, chairman of 2011 Scandinavian Festival to be held at Norsewood in Feb 2011.

5 March took David Bishop and Richard Nester (DOC, Wellington Conservancy) on tour of M'ville West School (DOC-owned), two adjoining churchyards, and Schou's barn and cottage.

9 March M'ville and Kopuaranga Fair Assn. awarded \$500 towards repair costs of windows in school and church gate.

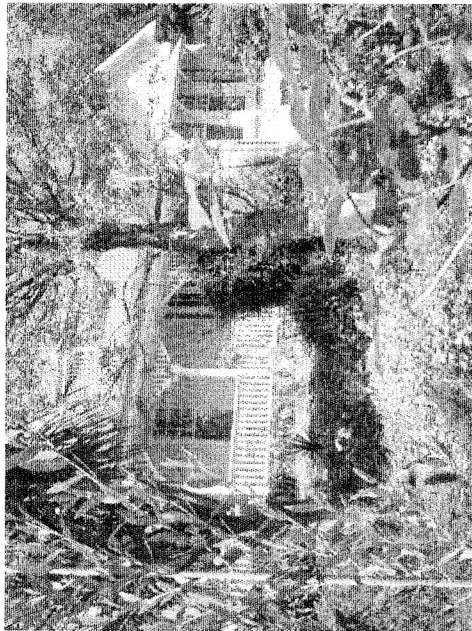
3 April received notice of our registration approved with Charities Commission.

Coming up:

26 April First Annual General Meeting at Pukaha Mt Bruce National Wildlife Centre, 2.00pm/ followed by tour by car of Mauriceville West sites.

Current funds: \$870 = \$500 grant towards repairs and \$370 membership fees. All annual fees paid in 2008 will run until 30 April 2010.

The house of Normandell, now housing New Pacific Studio, is located NW of Pukaha, on part of the old Burton farm of 775 acres that once adjoined land farmed by Ole Isakson. On display in the Isakson-Love Cottage at NPS is an invoice dated October 1, 1892 in which Ole claims payment from Christopher Burton for 60 acres of bush cleared at 1 pound per acre, and 3 acres at 1 pound + 2 shillings per acre. The previous year Ole had married Betty Gundersen. How long did it take him to clear 63 acres of dense forest by hand?



A HOUSE

The historic house of Normandell, in Mt Bruce in the Northern Wairarapa, is now the home of New Pacific Studio (NPS). (www.newpacificstudio.org) NPS gives New Zealand and overseas artists, writers and musicians time and space to create new work. Join our Patrons' Circle, donate a Fellowship or leave a bequest. National Bank a/c 060501 0893089 00. *Charitable org CC 22090*. Tel: 06 375-8441; fax 06 375-8461. Email newpacificstudio@xtra.co.nz Director Dr. Kay Flavell.

A BRIDGE

Two minutes north of New Pacific Studio is the W.A. Miller Scenic Reserve and the historic Anzac Memorial Bridge across the Makakahi River. Become a Friend of the Anzac Memorial Bridge Kaiparoro Inc (\$10 annual membership) to help support our annual Anzac Bridge Fellow, Anzac Day Services and international outreach to schools in Turkey, Belgium, France, Egypt and Germany. Tour the Kaiparoro Historic House Museum in Normandell and read the stories in *Living in Kaiparoro. Stories of a Taranaki Community and its Anzac Memorial Bridge* by Kay Flavell (ISBN 978-0-473-13270-5. Donations and bequests may be sent to NPS or to Kiwi Bank # 389007013849200.



A SCHOOL

Please join the Friends of Mauriceville Inc (\$10 annual membership) and help preserve the precious historic buildings – schools, cemeteries, churches and old barns – that tell the stories of Scandinavian migration and the settlement of the Seventy Mile Bush, from Kopuaranga and Mauriceville in the south to Norsewood in the north. Whispering Roads Project and Danish-Norwegian- Kiwi exchanges planned for 2011-14. Donations and bequests may be sent to NPS or to National Bank of New Zealand # 060689 027818300.

