



Newsletter December 2012

Chairman's Message

This year the Friends of Mauriceville Committee has looked at just what our Organization is here for. Dr. Kay Flavell formed Friends of Mauriceville in 2008 with the aim of promoting the Scandinavian Settlers who came to the Mauriceville District. They worked hard clearing the Bush, built homes schools, developed businesses. And most important of all – had children – and we are their descendants.

In discussing the purpose of Friends of Mauriceville, the Committee has modified our Constitution to reflect more closely our aims. More recently we have produced a brochure to promote ourselves, and in the New Year we will upgrade the website. To identify us more with our heritage, the name on the brochure is shown as Friends of Mauriceville Inc. – The Scandinavian Connection.

The Mauriceville West Reserve Committee are raising money to restore the old Mauriceville West School. We would welcome copies of any old photos, or memories that any of you may have of the school. These would be passed on to the appropriate people.

Harold Devenport – Chairman

From Dr. Kay Flavell (author of *Whispering Roads*, a Wellington-Napier Scandinavian Trail 2011)

Hi everyone:

One of the year-round pleasures I've experienced while living here at Mount Bruce over the past twelve years has been watching rainbows constantly form and fade over the hills between here and Mauriceville. *Rainbows over Mauriceville*, my current book project put together with help from all of you, is a personal description of a landscape I've come to know and love, and a collection of stories and photos about the multicultural families from Scandinavia and elsewhere who have lived and worked in this region since the 1870's. It will be available by the middle of 2013 or earlier if possible. Here's a chapter outline.

Rainbows over Mauriceville – Early Immigrant Families and where they lived –

Around 144 pages, black & white, with around 150 historic photographs. Size 210x240mm

Preface

From Scandinavia to the Mauriceville Settlement: Voyages and Arrivals.

Mauriceville North and Hastwell: Living along North Road.

Mauriceville West

Living along South Road

Living along West Road

From Scotland, England and Ireland: Kopuaranga, Mauriceville (East) and Mangamahoe.

Local Memories: Interviews 2006 – 2011

Around eighty families were allotted sections in the Mauriceville Settlement, and they arrived on about 10 ships between 1872 and 1876. As all of you who have worked on your family trees know, that's too many genealogies and family photos to be brought together in a single book. My aim, drawing on the work of G.C. Petersen, E.A (Ted) Nikolaison and Mac Larsen, is to increase knowledge of early families, find their living descendants, and encourage the growth of a Mauriceville History Trail. The book will be published for Friends of Mauriceville Inc. and available from them. The Price is not yet known. I welcome all correspondence – Email kayflavellnz@gmail.com Regular Mail: C/- New Pacific Studio, Mt. Bruce, RD 1, Masterton. Telephone: 06-375-8441

From Norma Dunn – Mauriceville Fair 2012

The Mauriceville/Kopuaranga Fair was held on Sunday 2nd December at the Clarke Domain in Mauriceville. Some seventy stallholders provided a wide variety of crafts, plants and food.

The Highlight of the day was the Farmlands/FMG Primary School Tug-of-War Challenge entered into by around six teams of primary school children. First prize in the event was won by Mauriceville School. Following the Tug-of-War challenge the children were encouraged to enter into egg and spoon, sack and three legged races, also egg tossing and this proved to be a lot of fun.

All day live entertainment was provided by Johnny Rowe's band. The Youth Concert Band, Fern and Thistle Pipe Band, and the ever popular Andrew Wilson (children's magician). Although the sun showed some reluctance to show itself the weather stayed fine and the organizing committee whole heartedly agreed that it had been a very successful day.

Julianne Buick reports from the Mauriceville West Reserve School Committee:

Mauriceville West Reserve School Committee has had an interesting two years informing our local district of the responsibilities we have, to restore our historic Buildings.

We had an AGM in November, which was a very informative meeting and well attended.

Westen Hove from Masterton District Council showed his support, and Gareth Winters from "Wairarapa Archives" spoke on the history of our school building, and some of the people who have passed through it. Richard Nester, an expert on historic buildings from the Department of Conservation Wellington, spoke on the uniqueness of our Committee and our roll for the future, with their full support.

Our first priority is to re-pile the building. This will cost in the vicinity of \$12,000.00. We have received grants from Eastern & Central Trust and Trust House, and only need \$3,000.00 more to commence this project.

Friends of Mauriceville have been very supportive, they have already erected signage at the school, and we do all appreciate their involvement.

Our plans for the New Year are to have a working bee and trim some trees and shrubs that have been neglected for some time, work on the Girls Shelter Shed, and improve access up to the front door of the school.

Our longer term plans are to use the school as a central hub for all the historic photographs and memorabilia for the surrounding districts. This is of interest to descendants and tourists so they can find out what it was like in the pioneering times.

From Stuart and Nerrolly Hoar - Methodist North Church

We are in the midst of a very successful working bee and have had four days with a very enthusiastic team of about 12 workers. The church has been prepped, water-blasted and some repairs done to timber. Weather permitting the next step is to treat and paint the roof and finish the balance of the painting of the walls. Time was also spent tidying around the graves and entrance at the bottom of the hill.

New Friends of Mauriceville Brochure:

We are all indebted to Phillipa Devenport-Jones, who has worked with Denise Devenport, (her mother) to produce such a good Friends of Mauriceville Brochure. Thank you for your expertise in this field Phillipa, you have given us reason to be proud of the finished article. These brochures will be available at I-Sites, and other places on prominent view! Please accept the Brochures enclosed with the Committee's good wishes.

Mangaoranga Cemetery:

During the last few months an information board has been erected, all burials are listed, making it easier for family and friends to trace their ancestors. A Book containing all the information has also been made available, this research was championed by Dr. Kay Flavell. Thanks must also be directed to the Tararua District Council for their valued assistance. The Booklet at a cost of \$5.00 is available from the Eketahuna Information Centre, or from Harold & Denise Devenport.

Scandinavian Festival 22nd-24th February 2013

Enclosed also is a brochure regarding the Festival to be held in Dannevirke over the last weekend in February. Friends of Mauriceville will have a display in the Produce Hall of the Dannevirke A & P Showgrounds. As Convener of the upcoming Festival, I would like to say how welcome you will be, we have worked on an interesting programme which we hope all attendees will enjoy. (Editor)

Christmas Greetings: Chairman Harold Devenport, on behalf of the Committee wish you all a Very Happy Festive Season.