

FRIENDS OF MAURICEVILLE NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2014



This time last year we started to promote and sell 'Rainbows Over Mauriceville'. Twelve months on, we have just under 100 books left. This is a great effort. The sale proceeds of the book are going to enable us to proceed with our aim to preserve and promote the historical Scandinavian cultural heritage of Mauriceville.

Plans are under way for information signage and upgrading of existing sites at Kopuaranga and Mauriceville West. The memorial at the Kopuaranga Camp grave site is in need of repair and this will be done in conjunction with the Wairarapa Scandinavian Club. Planning is underway for two new information signs; one at Kopuaranga and the other at the Mauriceville West Reserve. These will provide road information and site plans.

From time to time subscriptions and life membership payments are received through our bank account. Last year payments for a life membership for C. Banks and a subscription for M.A. Bower were received. We have no addresses, so if you know these people would you please get them to contact us?

If you received this newsletter by post but have an email address, you may like to receive the newsletter by email. If so, please send your address to info@scandinaviantrail.org.nz

NB: Remember, subscriptions are now due.

Mauriceville West Reserve:

The repiling of the school has been completed and continuous galvanised steel spouting will be erected shortly. Access to the building was regarded as substandard and a disability ramp has been erected at the rear door.

N.B. Small totara slabs from the original piles are available for sale for \$10 as a fundraiser. These slabs are 349 plus years old and have an inscription on them. If interested please contact Willy Buick Mauriceville West 06 3725736

96 children from Opaki School recently visited the school, cemeteries and churches with their i-pads for research projects. Feedback was very positive. Thank you to Willy and Julianne Buick, Bill Taylor and Robbie Braddock for the time you gave to encourage these very receptive children to learn about the local history. Mauriceville School is also planning a visit in November. These are the times we remind ourselves that the hard work and commitment of dedicated FOM members is important for future generations.

Over the last two years, locals, Julianne Buick and Barbara Barr have worked extensively on compiling a list of people buried (as far back as the 1880s) in the historic 'Public Cemetery' behind the Mauriceville West School, many of which are in unmarked graves. They have used various resources including the Wairarapa Archives, Mac Larsen's research, the Lutheran Church records and information from other people. The list is now as complete as possible and a sign is being prepared with the information on it. This will be erected at the cemetery and the District Council may assist with funding. The completion of the signage will be a great achievement and likewise a great help to descendants of settlers and visitors for many years to come. The existing graves and headstones are tended and cleaned as best they can be.

Mauriceville North Norwegian Church:

A meeting of trustees was held 17.06.14 and since then Headstones Wairarapa have reattached spires on four graves that had turned in the Eketahuna earthquake.

The visitors' book indicates that a lot of people from here and overseas often call in, so we continue to find and display historical information and photographs for their interest.

The church is available for family gatherings, christenings, weddings or other services. It is wonderful to see it used, as it was in August, when there was a dedication service for two children of Norwegian and Swedish descent who were fifth generation descendents of Eli Larsen who is buried there.

After Graham Mitchell, the Norwegian Consul General, visited the church, an invitation was extended to attend a Constitution Day breakfast 16 May at the Norwegian Embassy. After talking to recent immigrants and students studying in Wellington, we became aware that we need to promote our Scandinavian historic places to them and FOM will forward some copies of Kay Flavell's book *Whispering Roads* to the Embassy, to be made available to those who may want to explore the Heritage Trail- Wellington to Napier, via Mauriceville!

Mauriceville/Kopuaranga Fair: Sunday 7th December 2014

Some stall sites are still available. For further information please contact Norma Dunn on 06 3725900.

The Mauriceville/Kopuaranga Fair Association Inc. is a not for profit organisation and any excess funds generated by the fair are made available through grants for local initiatives (educational, sporting, cultural and also for the preservation and restoration of local historic places).

N.B. Friend of Mauriceville will have a stall to promote their organisation and to sell copies of their books:

Rainbows Over Wairarapa - \$45. *Whispering Roads* - \$10 - both by Dr Kay Flavell.

Friends of Mauriceville c/o 308 Opaki-Kaiparoro Road, R.D. 2, Masterton 5882