



# FRIENDS OF MAURICEVILLE NEWSLETTER JULY 2019

*FOM Inc. The Scandinavian Connection*

The Friends of Mauriceville Inc. – The Scandinavian Connection was 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.

Friends of Mauriceville recently held their AGM in the Kopuaranga Hall and are pleased to have welcomed new members onto the Committee.

Below are reports from the various organisations under the umbrella of Friends of Mauriceville.

## MAURICEVILLE WEST LUTHERAN CHURCH AND BURIAL GROUNDS



As you are most likely aware the final Lutheran Service at Mauriceville West was held on a beautiful Sunday 24th March.

We were thrilled to share this day with over 110 attendees and wish to say our thanks to those of you from Friends of Mauriceville who came along.

A slight hiccup with our Bishop and Pastor being prevented from officiating due to the Remutaka Hill Road being closed by a car fire, but everyone was very understanding and we soldiered on in faith that God was with us as He had indicated by the quality of the day.



A very social afternoon over a cup of tea was the perfect conclusion as many descendants of our original settlers explored the cemetery and met up with others.

Going forward we are currently awaiting removal of the building. Sadly our sale to a local couple fell through, but we have now resold it and it will be leaving the district in the near future.



We have donated our historic organ to the Norwegian Methodist Church on North Hill, so this will remain in the district.

The bell is currently being refurbished and we intend to incorporate this back on site within our notice board and memorial we propose to erect once the building has gone.



The church pews are currently in storage. We have a number of requests to purchase them, particularly one or two of the dedicated pews, and will be resolving this shortly.

We have settled on a value of \$250 each. We do have a few surplus still so if anyone would like to secure one please give us an email; [bruce.jo.farley@gmail.com](mailto:bruce.jo.farley@gmail.com)

## MAURICEVILLE NORTH CHURCH

At Labour Weekend a large and successful reunion was organised for the descendants of Eli and Lars Hansen and this concluded with a Sunday church service at the Mauriceville North Church. The weather was perfect, the Church full and the hearty singing would have resounded in the valleys.

There was a comprehensive tour of all the historic sites in the district after an address by the Chairman of Friends of Mauriceville at the Kopuaranga Hall. Many of the descendants, some of whom who had travelled from overseas, hold Kopuaranga and Mauriceville in their hearts. They voiced their appreciation of FOM'S endeavours to preserve the Scandinavian history and sites.

Two replacement windows have finally been installed in the church and are as similar in design as possible to the originals.

Sadly, earlier in the year there was a spate of metal thefts in the district and the hanging brass lamp and metal lamp bracket behind the pulpit were stolen. Organ panels were vandalised and discarded there, but have been repaired.

As you will read in the report from the Lutheran Church the trustees have very kindly gifted their organ to us so it can remain in the area. We are so grateful as ours in a very poor state and unable to be played. Thanks to Jo and Bruce Farley for enabling this to happen.

There has been restoration of two historic graves by Wairarapa Headstones. They are those of Eli Larsen and also Hans and Karen Larsen. Hans, Eli's son was one of the first trustees of the church.

This was paid for by two family members as the MVNTH Church Trust is not in a financial position to restore graves.

## MAURICEVILLE WEST RESERVE

The Reserve Committee are in the process of completing the painting of the exterior of the School.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

##### **Kerrie Hughes-Saga, Forty Mile Bush Settled by the Land**

Continuing until 6 October 2019. Two part exhibition-large tapestry-like paintings by Kerrie Hughes, with roots in Mauriceville and an historic display with stories, photographs and 19th century objects related to Scandinavian settlement. [Aratoi Wairarapa Museum of Art and History](#), 12 Bruce St, Masterton, Wairarapa. Open daily 10-4, free entry.

##### **KOPUARANGA ARTS AND CRAFTS MARKET**

Sunday 27 October 2019, to be held at the hall.

##### **MAURICEVILLE/ KOPUARANGA COUNTRY FAIR**

1 December (Sunday)2019

Mark it on the calendar and encourage family and friends to start summer with a fun day out in the beautiful Clarke Domain. This is a community fundraiser and our Scandinavian heritage projects have been the recipients of generous grants thanks to the enthusiasm and efforts of the local organisers and helpers.

##### **NORSEWOOD VIKING FESTIVAL**

29 February (Saturday) and 1 March (Sunday) 2020

The gathering will consist of craft/ stall/culture/dancing/traditional food/genealogy  
No charge for stall holders. Contact:[debbievanasch@hotmail.com](mailto:debbievanasch@hotmail.com)

##### **\*SUBSCRIPTIONS**

\$10 per annum

Unpaid subscriptions are due for payment now please.

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Friends of Mauriceville,  
c/- 5 Whatman Avenue,  
Masterton 5810

