

# Bridging the gap between Mauriceville and Nova Scotia

**CANADIAN ARTIST Sheilah Wilson is pictured centre right with Mauriceville School students and teachers yesterday as they watch Rita Anaru, 11, release one of 22 pigeons carrying messages about Mauriceville, which will be collected up by Ms Wilson and taken back to Canada.**

PHOTO: LYNDA FERINGA



By **JO MOIR**  
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Song took flight with a flock of pigeons from Mauriceville School yesterday bound for a choir in Canada.

Mauriceville School pupils have been studying their history and local landmarks this year, which took a new twist when Canadian artist Sheilah Wilson asked to take part in their learning alongside her own project, songs worth singing.

"I've been staying here at New Pacific Studio and working on a

number of projects but wanted to do something with local schools," Ms Wilson said.

"Songs worth singing is a project I'm doing with a coal-mining choir in Nova Scotia.

"Once I've collected all the messages back from the pigeons I will take them back to Nova Scotia where the choir will write a song about Mauriceville for the children."

All 22 pigeons, one for each pupil at the school, set off yesterday with a message from each child wrapped around their leg, she said.

Vic Rees provided the homing

pigeons for the day and also explained to the pupils how pigeon racing works, an interest he has had all his life, he said.

"I've got about 35 pigeons that I race all over New Zealand.

"It's a good hobby and it keeps me busy."

Ms Wilson said once the choir has recorded a song about Mauriceville School and its children she will send it back for them to hear.

"It's a great way of showing communication and exchanging details about different places between different people."

THURSDAY MAY 22, 2008

WAIKATO TIMES AGE, MASTERTON, NEW ZEALAND