

Presidents Report for year 2019

Good afternoon members and visitors. A warm welcome to you all.

A special mention to our Kapiti Mayor Guru who is our Patron and our Wayne Smith Medal holders, Alan and Mary Milne who could not join us today. Also to our Life Members Cheryl Adams, Ria Erskine, Mary and Alan Milne and Margaret Walton. Margaret is recovering well after her recent illness.

Welcome to our own Debbie Lattey who is FFnz National Field Rep Co-Ordinator.

We had only one new member this year - Kevin Sheppard - who is my partner has been a great help and support to me over the year.

This has been my first year as president. I have learnt a tremendous amount about Friendship Force International, Friendship Force NZ and about our own club. We have had another busy year with the emphasis on getting a good base to attract New Members. We held a Promotions meeting in March and from there have slowly but surely set about actioning the ideas which came from this meeting.

At the Leaders forum, the field reps also placed a great importance on getting new members for all Friendship Groups and created a "Be Visible" slogan which we have taken up. We received an award for having the best FF NZ Facebook page at the leader's forum. This was a surprise as none of us had any idea this was being considered. Our FB page is a great way to see photos from our member's trips, photos from other FF groups inwards and outward trips and to keep up with FFI and our own club events. I have been busy posting and sharing on Facebook over the year and am now connecting with 40 new people who have liked our page who live in the Kapiti area.

We have produced and bought a sign which we are using on the Community Notice Boards on Raumati, Kapiti and Te Moana roads. We also had a sandwich board made up with two posters; one attached each side with information about our group. We have attended the Waikanae Spring market gathering 19 names who would like to receive our newsletter and the Women's Expo where we gathered an additional 16 names. We have members rostered on for the Paraparaumu beach market till the end of November. A few more names have been collected here. The great thing is that many people have said they saw us at the Waikanae and Women's Expo Markets. We are becoming Visible!!

Thanks to those members who have manned the markets for us handing out our brochure or business card. We start off with "do you know about Kapiti Friendship Force" or "do you like to travel with friends?"

The club purchased some bumper stickers to place on cars, letter boxes, fences, suitcases. These have not been very well taken up by our group. Placing two on back side windows of your car is a great way to be visible!

We have organised and attended a number of events this year starting off with the President's BBQ with cocktails. Venue was the Lattey's house due to the inclement weather predicted. Thank you to Debbie and Wilson who are always so willing to help out.

Wellington combined picnic - due to rain this was held in the Capital Rodders clubrooms at Porirua. We enjoyed an inside picnic lunch and a few enjoyable games.

Morning teas have been organised this year by the very capable Rhondda at a variety of local Kapiti Cafés so we can Be Visible. Big thanks to Rhondda as these are very well attended. We had 4 new prospective members attend last Wednesday.

Thank you to Lois organising LEO events both during the week and the weekends to encourage those who work to have the opportunity to be part of our club. Once again in a variety of Restaurants and Cafés to Be Visible.

In March we had the incoming journey from Quebec. This was a particularly great inward journey for our club as Quebec had been fantastic hosts to some of us in 2016. Thank you to Shirley and Rhondda who were the journey Co-ordinators and organised the programme. The 13 guests who visited us had a wonderful time, visiting our local sites and those in Wellington. Special thanks to Mayor Guru who welcomed our visitors in the Council Chambers on their first day.

A huge thanks to those who provided a fantastic first journey experience for 8 of this group and the other hosts who made the rest of the group feel so welcome. We all learnt some French songs at the farewell dinner and our guests especially loved the opportunity to splash in the sea and the trip to Nga Manu to see our native birds.

Our Soup lunch was held later this year - in July - due to myself and the Taylors being overseas. It was enjoyed by 26 members. We had a lively discussion on a Social membership or a Friends of Kapiti FF. Voting on this will be held later in this AGM meeting. I feel that we should try to be inclusive of members and prospective members and not exclusive.

Ten pin Bowling was this year organised by Fran who deserves a vote of thanks. We had some fun games and a nice roast dinner afterwards. Unfortunately Lois slipped and wrenched her ankle which meant she had to forgo playing. Her place was taken over by her grandson Hunter which was a lovely younger addition to the team.

Nuts and Bolts day in Feilding was well attended by a number of clubs including ours and Kapiti FF took out the trophy this year.

Thanks to Fran who organised an internal journey to Nelson for our group. It seems they had a wonderful time. It was good to see this well supported and Fran is working on another trip away for next year.

Our next journey planning to Brisbane and Bundaberg is underway under the leadership of Rhondda. This will be in June 2020.

Next March we have an Inward journey from FF Raleigh club who we visited in 2016. Journey Coordinators are the Taylors. If you are able to host please sign the sheet Beverley has put out.

Here I must give a very very big Thank you to Beverley our Secretary. Not only does she do a fantastic job writing up our newsletter but she is so onto all the other correspondence we get from FFI, FFNZ, and passes this on so well to us all. This year in the newsletter we have incorporated over the year some profile /introductions to new board members and also a monthly article from a member on one of their recent trips. Please do make sure you are reading the newsletter when it arrives as Beverley puts a great amount of work into this for us all.

I need to also thank Allan, Immediate Past President, for his continued support and knowledge which he imparts to me as needed.

Thanks also to Peter, our very capable Treasurer, who doesn't let a cent get passed him without some sort of explanation.

Before I move my report be accepted, I would like to call on Shirley Reid to come forward.

I would like to acknowledge and thank Shirley Reid who has been a Board Member and our Almoner. Shirley is not standing for re-election this year. Shirley, at the time of our club celebrating 30 years, had filled the roles of Treasurer, Secretary, and President between 2004 - 2012. From 2002 Shirley filled the role of Exchange Director for at least 8 Inward Exchanges and 5 Outward Exchanges. She has given to our club her time, her support and her enthusiasm. It is with great pleasure I thank you on behalf of us all and present you with this token of our appreciation.

Lastly I wish those who can't attend our Christmas dinner a very enjoyable Festive Season with Family and friends. There is a sheet to sign if you are attending the Christmas lunch and or the Country Ramble.

I would now like to move that my report as presented be accepted.

Sue Harris
November 2019.