



# friendship force

KAPITI COAST

**APRIL / MAY 2024**



Club web address: [www.kapiti.friendshipforce.co.nz](http://www.kapiti.friendshipforce.co.nz)  
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## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

<b>April</b>		
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> April 11.45am	LEO (Let's eat out) Lunch – The Curry Lounge, 6 Alexander Road, Raumati Beach	Email Lois Horsfall, <a href="mailto:mikelois@xtra.co.nz">mikelois@xtra.co.nz</a> , ph 021 154 4311, or leave a message on 298 8504
<b>May</b>		
Friday 10 May 10.00am	Coffee morning at the Latteys' home 387A Te Moana Road, Waikanae	RSVP Debbie Lattey <a href="mailto:debbie@otaihanga.co.nz">debbie@otaihanga.co.nz</a> ph 021 689 348
Wednesday 22 May 5.00pm	Happy Hour at Club Vista Paraparaumu Beach	RSVP Debbie Lattey <a href="mailto:debbie@otaihanga.co.nz">debbie@otaihanga.co.nz</a> ph 021 689 348
Friday 31 May	Petanque with Wellington FF at Kapiti Pentanque Club, 10.00am followed by lunch at a local café (lunch venue TBA)	RSVP Beth Lough <a href="mailto:beth.lough@yahoo.co.nz">beth.lough@yahoo.co.nz</a> 027 788 8822 / 04 902 2383

You will see details, dates and times in our 'dates for your diary' listings. Please add them to your diary or change dates when you receive this newsletter so you do not forget. Reminders will be sent.

# President's Chatter

Hello friends. I finally managed to get to our club's coffee morning this week – life is slowing down at last and I'm hoping to be able to get to more of them now. We have settled well into our new home in Waikanae and I thought it might be nice to hold the next coffee morning here in May – we will provide the morning tea so no need to bring anything. Everyone welcome. There was a suggestion we vary the days for the coffee morning so I've made it a Friday morning this time.

The 2024 National Gathering at Silverstream Retreat was smaller than previous Gatherings – a sign of the times! – but very successful, and we all came away with some great new ideas for the future. There is a fuller report later in this newsletter. It was also a chance to meet our new RSM, Liv Goudie, and hear from John Hannah about the FFI Board's strategic plan. Jeanette Boswell from the Hamilton-Waikato Club gave a talk about her club's success in recruiting new members, and one idea I took away from that is to hold 'Happy Hours' at local venues so that those who are working can attend more easily, and to raise the profile of the club. So I thought we'd give that a go, with our first Happy Hour on Wednesday 22 May at 5.00pm at Club Vista. You can stay for dinner afterwards if you'd like to. RSVP to me.

Another upcoming event is a combined Wellington and Kapiti FF Pétanque day. We have booked with the Kapiti Pétanque Club for 10.00am on Friday 31 May, with a backup day (in case of bad weather) of Friday 31 May. We can play several games of Pétanque and then go out to lunch together – lunch venue TBA. Please wear enclosed footwear for safety reasons.

Unfortunately we have had to cancel our club's outbound journey to Tamworth. There was no interest in this journey and no-one was willing to be the JC. We have not applied for an outbound journey in 2025, but remember that you can apply to join other clubs' outbounds.

We are now well into autumn, although the weather is very changeable! One thing we are having to deal with is autumn leaves which we never worried about on the farm but I'm spending a lot of time raking them up in my new smaller garden! We have a large Sycamore tree that is shedding seeds and leaves at a great rate, and every day I'm raking up bucket loads of them.

As you may have heard, my Mum (Jan Beswick) passed away on 18 March. Mum and Dad first joined FF in Wanganui back in the 1980s, and when Mum moved to Kapiti she joined our club. She hosted several times, as well as going on an outbound club trip to Australia. She was always interested in hearing about club news and continued to come to club events until her failing eyesight meant she couldn't participate any more. Mum suffered a stroke and passed away in Wellington Hospital with her children around her, aged 94. Her memorial service will be held at Harbour City Funeral Home on Monday 22 April at 2.00pm. Those who remember Mum are welcome to join us to celebrate her very full life and say a final farewell.

In friendship  
Debbie Lattey, President

# Coffee Morning

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May

Venue: Lattey home  
387A Te Moana Road, Waikanae  
10a.m.



R.S.V.P. Debbie, 021 689 348

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# Happy Hour

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May

Venue: Club Vista, Paraparaumu Beach, 5.00pm

RSVP Debbie, 021 689 348



## Report on National Gathering at Silverstream Retreat 4 - 6 April 2024

Forty FF members from clubs around New Zealand met at Silverstream Retreat for our 2024 National Gathering. While the numbers were down compared to previous gatherings, the organising committee felt it was a very successful event with lots of new ideas being presented.

The Gathering started with registration and outdoor games during the afternoon, followed by Happy Hour with wine and cheese, then dinner. In the evening we settled down to play cards and board games, and there was much friendly competition along with enjoying catching up with old friends.



*Playing outdoor games*

Friday was the business session, and it was great to get to meet Liv Goudie, our new RSM, and for Liv to get a feel for the New Zealand clubs and meet most of our leaders. We also heard from John Hannah, Board Director, who spoke about the FFI strategic plan. One of the key ideas the Board has generated is to put together a group of volunteer 'experts' in various fields to help run the organisation, as the small staff and Board cannot do everything that is needed to ensure the future of FFI. John also spoke about the increase in individual journeys and their importance to the future.



*Board member John Hannah addressing the meeting*

Our guest speaker was Tom Reidy from TAG The Agency, who talked about marketing and publicity. He focused mainly on social media and particularly the importance of Facebook to attracting our demographic. He suggested that rather than individual clubs having separate Facebook pages, they combine into the FFNZ Facebook page. Some clubs have active pages and can continue with them if they wish, but those clubs who struggle to find members able to administer their Facebook page can opt to integrate into the FFNZ. The idea is that club members send items of interest and photos to Liv and she puts them on the FFNZ page. By integrating the pages all the followers of each page will be incorporated into the new one, thus increasing the overall reach of the national page.

Jeanette Boswell from the Hamilton-Waikato club spoke about how she went about establishing a group of FF members in Cambridge, and their ideas for generating interest in their club. I picked up the idea of a Happy Hour from Jeanette's talk. **I did notice that only Jeanette Page and I wore our FF badges at our coffee morning this week, and remind members that wearing the badges is a good way to generate interest in our organisation by those who see us out and about.**

We discussed Special (Global) journeys and I reported on the recent cycle journey, including how we recruited hosts from our local cycle club. Malcolm Sime spoke about his idea for a special journey aimed at the arts community, and is working on that idea. He and Graham Wigley also talked about recruiting for voluntary work, and an idea was mooted that we ask members to collect children's books to go to schools in Vanuatu, with a special journey organized for those who would like to help deliver them to the schools. Watch this space for information about these upcoming journeys.



Mieke from the Wellington Club presented her ideas for writing an exciting club newsletter, and shared copies of their club newsletter. Wellington FF were the holders of the newsletter award from the last Gathering and so were the judges for this year's award, which was presented to Taupo Club.

At the end of the day some of us attended a special workshop led by Barry O'Donnell on changes to Constitution law for those clubs who are incorporated. That includes our club, so we need to do some work on our new Constitution over the next few months.

That evening we were treated to a singalong with Graham Wigley and Bob Walker playing their guitars, which was very enjoyable. We sang lots of the old songs we all know and love!



*Graham and Bob entertaining us with a singalong*



*Wellington President Lynnda Bouzaid presenting the Newsletter Trophy to Colin Ridge from FF Taupo*

The Gathering finished after breakfast the next morning, and some of the members were then hosted for a few days in Wellington, Wairarapa and Kapiti. We hope everyone enjoyed the experience, and look forward to the next Gathering in two years' time.

## Let's play Petanque!

Friday 31 May, 10.00am at Kapiti Petanque Club, Paraparaumu Domain

Members of FF Wellington have been invited to join us for a game or two of Petanque, followed by lunch at a venue to be decided.

You will need to wear enclosed shoes for safety reasons. Morning tea will be provided by the club.

RSVP to Beth Lough, [beth.lough@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:beth.lough@yahoo.co.nz), 04 902 2383 / 027 788 8822



## Inbound from Mie & Koriyama 12 – 17 March 2024

Along with autumn the Kapiti Coast Friendship Force welcomed 10 Ambassadors from Mie and Koriyama, Japan FF clubs.

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup>** Jeanette and Rhondda travelled into Wellington airport to meet the Ambassadors and escorted them on the Flyer bus and train back to Paraparaumu and their hosts.

A most enjoyable welcome meal was held at the home of Debbie and Wilson Lattey. A number of our guests dressed in brightly coloured kimonos and entertained us with song, dance and a tea ceremony. A fun first day.



*We were treated to a Japanese tea ceremony*

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup>** was warm and sunny for our Nga Manu visit. The kiwi stayed hidden but many other birds were viewed and songs, especially from the tui, when we were having our picnic lunch. Feeding of the eels gave “squeals” as they were large and hungry.

Dinner was at different host’s homes and the snapper ceviche I had was delicious and also very much enjoyed by our guests as I did share but they had to be quick.....

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>** at Kapiti College Marae. Here we experienced protocols involved in a traditional welcome onto a Marae. The Kuia and college students gave a very polished performance. Lunch was served then one of our Ambassadors Hiroshi performed a traditional Japanese rakugo, verbal street theatre story telling. This was enjoyed by students and hosts as he was so funny and entertaining and something new, “use your imagination” he kept saying but it was certainly “live” and made everyone smile. Our hosts gave gifts of origami to the students.

Then it was time for us all to have a go at flax weaving – that was fun and we all managed to produce a flower or bracelet. The weaving group who meet weekly were great teachers and we all thought we were very clever too.

At 5pm Jeanette had a live interview on Japanese radio talking about Friendship Force travels overseas.

We met for fish n chips at the beach. The fish was delicious and went down well. The wind picked up so off to the Vista Club for a wine and sat in the lounge alcove to watch the beautiful sunset.

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup>** off on the 9.06am train into Wellington. Another sunny day, so the walk along the waterfront was very pleasant. Lots of photographs were taken of our beautiful Wellington on a good day.



*Hiroshi (Kanta) performs story-telling at Kapiti College, to the delight of the students*



Te Papa was buzzing and we visited the Marae, nature feature and Gallipoli exhibition before lunch at the downstairs cafe. A walk through the city to the Cable Car with views from the top and a visit to the Parfumier shop. Lambton Quay shops were looking tempting but we carried on to the Supreme Court where we had a tour of the courtroom which takes its inspiration from the seed cone of a Kauri tree.

We then walked along to the cenotaph and viewed the Beehive and Parliament Buildings then home on the train. Dinner with hosts and Jeanette's and my ambassadors cooked a Japanese 4-course meal, very tasty.

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup>** met at Otaihangā Domain and walked to the river mouth. A boxed lunch was enjoyed then we had our usual fun FF games like throw the gumboot etc with plenty of fun and laughs.

Jeanette and Rhondda escorted their ladies into Wellington where they stayed at the airport hotel to return next morning to Auckland and Japan ready for work on Monday.

Ambassadors shouted their hosts out to dinner for the Farewell meal at Tuk Tuk. A good evening.

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>** March the shuttle took 8 guests to the airport, 2 were going onto Queenstown, 2 to Christchurch and the others back to Japan.

What a great 6 days exchange – lovely weather, the Ambassadors were warm, happy, generous people who enjoyed all that our Club offered. Come again Japan Clubs, you will get a very warm welcome.

Special thanks to Jeanette who did an amazing job with the planning and the budget.



*Gumboot throwing champions. The Japanese beat us at our own game!!!*



*Farewell to our lovely group of ambassadors. We hope we meet again one day.*



*Entertainment at the welcome dinner*

### **THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE PLEDGE**

**As a member of the Friendship Force I recognise that I can make a difference.  
 I recognise that I have a mission.  
 That mission is to be a friend to the people of the World.  
 As I embark on this adventure I know that others will be watching me.  
 I know that through my example to my fellow citizens and people of other  
 countries, the cause of peace and friendship can be furthered.  
 I can make a difference.**

### **MANAGEMENT GROUP 2024**

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