



friendship force  
KAPITI COAST

## DECEMBER 2024 / JANUARY 2025

Club web address: [www.kapiti.friendshipforce.co.nz](http://www.kapiti.friendshipforce.co.nz)  
Email Address: [debbie@otaihanga.co.nz](mailto:debbie@otaihanga.co.nz)



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

December		
Wednesday 11 Dec <b>9.30am**</b> (note earlier time)	<b>Coffee with Dee</b> Venue Two Fat Chefs, 31 Marine Parade, Paraparaumu Beach	RSVP Dee Heron <a href="mailto:heron7471@gmail.com">heron7471@gmail.com</a> ph 021 142 6441

February		
Saturday 8 – Wednesday 12 Feb	Domestic inbound journey from Hamilton-Waikato FF	Host Coordinator needed – please consider volunteering!
Sunday 9 February	Garden Party at the Lattey's 387A Te Moana Road, Waikanae	Details in the attachment to this newsletter
Wednesday 19 February	<b>Coffee with Dee</b> Venue tba	RSVP Dee Heron <a href="mailto:heron7471@gmail.com">heron7471@gmail.com</a> ph 021 142 6441

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 can't believe the year is nearly over and Christmas is just around the corner. Every year seems to go past faster than the last!

We held our AGM and Christmas Party at Tuk Tuk Waimea restaurant, commandeering the top floor for the duration of the AGM. It worked really well and everyone stayed for dinner afterwards. The minutes of the AGM have been sent out separately, but I include my President's Report in this newsletter in case you didn't see it.



I would like to thank the members of my committee again for continuing to support the club and keep it alive. It's great to have such a good team to work with.

We are kicking off 2025 with an inbound domestic journey from Hamilton-Waikato Club from 8-12 February. This will coincide with our Garden Party on February 9<sup>th</sup>, and I've invited Wellington and Manawatu-Whanganui Club members to join us as well. We look forward to a great interclub event. More about this later in the newsletter.

Also in this newsletter is a report from Fran about her participation in the Australian FF National Conference on Norfolk Island. I would have loved to have gone too but the dates clashed with our holiday in Australia.

Until we meet again, Merry Christmas everyone and a safe and happy New Year.

In friendship  
Debbie Lattey, President

# Coffee Mornings

## December

Date: Wednesday 11 December, **9.30am**  
Venue: Two Fat Chefs, Marine Parade, Paraparaumu Beach  
R.S.V.P. Dee, 021 142 6441

## February

Date: Wednesday 19 February, 10.00am  
Venue : TBA  
R.S.V.P. Dee, 021 142 6441



# Garden Party

Date: Sunday 9 February, 12 noon  
Venue: 387A Te Moana Road, Waikanae

Come and celebrate the summer with a Garden Party at the Latteys. Details are in the poster sent out with this newsletter. Members of the Hamilton-Waikato Club will be here to join us, and we are inviting Wellington and Manawatu-Whanganui members as well.

Do invite friends and family – and especially prospective members – to join us for an afternoon of fun. I hope you can join us.



# Inbound domestic journey

As mentioned above, members of the Hamilton-Waikato Club will be coming to us on a domestic inbound journey from **8-12 February**. They expect around 12 ambassadors on the journey, so we will need a few hosts. I'll put out the call in January to see who is available.

We also need a Host Coordinator – you will be working with a team so please consider volunteering for this role. Let Debbie know if you are interested.

## Kapiti Coast Friendship Force President's Report 2024

We started 2024 with 27 full members, 4 life members and 9 Friends of the Club. During the year we welcomed two new members, Barbara Spencer and Jennifer Hall.

Our first major activity was an international inbound in February – the *Great Cycle Trails of New Zealand*. Nine ambassadors stayed with us for four nights. This was part of a three-week NZ-wide cycle tour with 19 ambassadors – half were hosted in Kapiti and half were hosted by Wellington FF. Most of our hosts were members of our local cycle group, and were introduced to Friendship Force through this journey. One of the cycle hosts has since joined our club.

In addition to cycling activities we held a Club picnic at Otaihanga Domain, and entertained our guests with games including gumboot throwing, underarm golf and pig in a hole. The day was enjoyed by all.

In March we hosted our second inbound visit from Japanese clubs Koriyama and Mie. Ten ambassadors came to Kapiti and were wonderful guests, entertaining us as much as we entertained them. A highlight was performances by 'Kanta' (Hiroshi Miyahara) both at our welcome dinner and at Kapiti College. We were also treated to a traditional Japanese tea ceremony.

In April a number of members attended the 2024 National Gathering at Silverstream Retreat in Upper Hutt. This was a valuable opportunity to reconnect with friends from other clubs and discuss the future of Friendship Force in New Zealand. Marketing was a hot topic at the Gathering.

In May we organised a pétanque day with Wellington FF at the Kapiti Pétanque Club, followed by lunch at a local café. We all had fun competing to see who could knock their opponents' balls out of the way – pétanque is cut-throat to say the least!

In June and July we collected books for schools in Vanuatu. This was an initiative driven by Field Rep Graham Wigley in response to a plea for replacing school libraries on the island of Tanna which was devastated by recent hurricanes. We collected three boxes of children's books to contribute to the appeal, which was also supported by other NZFF clubs.

In September we organised a short domestic journey to Taupo and Whanganui, and invited members of Wellington FF to join us for that as well. Three did so, and with five from our club we made a small group of eight. The Taupo Club were most welcoming and organised a number of activities for us, including a riverboat trip on the Waikato River to Huka Falls and a swim at the hot pools at Wairakei. The farewell dinner was held at Alan Milne's home so it was great to catch up with Alan who was a member of our club for many years before he and Mary shifted to Taupo. Sadly Mary passed away earlier this year.

We then travelled to Whanganui for two nights, and met up with the Whanganui FF members for dinner. The second night we stayed at Bushy Park, a beautiful old homestead set in a native bird sanctuary. Well worth a visit and a great end to our adventure.

Also in September we held our annual Soup Lunch, which several Wellington members attended. Our guest speaker was Andrew Malcolm who spoke about his organisation's humanitarian work in Papua New Guinea, Zambia, the Philippines and Turkey. And of course we all enjoyed the delicious selection of home-made soups produced by our committee members.

In October our Secretary Fran Kennedy represented our club at the FF Australia conference in Norfolk Island. She had a wonderful time, and a full report on her trip will be included in our next newsletter.

During the year we also held regular coffee mornings and Let's Eat Out events—grateful thanks to Lois and Dee for continuing to organise these events which are always well attended.

A new initiative this year was a Happy Hour followed by dinner at Club Vista. Three of these events were held during the year and again were well attended. We will continue next year to alternate this with LEO lunches.

My thanks to my dedicated committee who helped with all these activities during the year, especially Secretary Fran for keeping me on the ball and sending out reminders to club members. I look forward to another full year of activities in 2025, starting with a Garden Party at our home in Waikanae in February.

Debbie Lattey  
President

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## **Norfolk Island Friendship Force Australia Gathering**

A Week of Friendship and Cultural Exchange

In the spirit of camaraderie and cultural exchange, the Norfolk Island Friendship Force Australia Gathering brought together members from various clubs to share experiences and foster new connections. Representing our club, Fran embarked on a journey aboard Air Chathams to Auckland, where she connected with the weekly flight to Norfolk Island that departs on Thursdays. Upon arrival, we were warmly welcomed by our accommodation hosts and handed the keys to our rental car, which served as our sole mode of transportation throughout the week, as the island lacks buses and taxis.

### **The Gathering Begins**

The Gathering saw the participation of clubs from Hamilton/Waikato, Tauranga, Whangarei, and, of course, our own club, making a total of ten people. The first evening was marked by a welcome fish dinner, primarily organized for the Kiwis who arrived on the same flight. The fish was nothing short of spectacular, setting a high standard for the culinary delights that awaited us. The Australian representatives arrived the following day, significantly swelling the island's population by 94, bringing the total number of residents to just over 3000. With a permanent population of 2010 people, the island also boasts 300 children attending school up to Year 13 and over 7000 vehicles, averaging two and a half cars or trucks per person.

### **Exploring Island Life**

The day after our arrival, the tours commenced. We embarked on the Island Life Tour, immersing ourselves in the unique lifestyle and traditions of the islanders. This was followed by another welcome dinner, this time with the Australians, who had just joined us. Sunday was dedicated to exploring the island markets, which offered a plethora of local goods and crafts, providing a vibrant glimpse into the island's economy and culture.

### **Work and Discussions**

Monday marked the beginning of our formal activities. Clad in our distinctive black polo shirts, we were received with royal treatment, a testament to the islanders' hospitality. The sessions included discussions on various initiatives and new possibilities for collaboration, followed by a local guest speaker who provided us with up-to-date information about the island. These insights were invaluable, deepening our understanding of the island's current affairs and future prospects.



## Island Culture and Heritage

In the following days, we undertook more tours, including the Island Culture Tour and the World Heritage Tour. These excursions were enlightening, revealing the rich history and cultural heritage of Norfolk Island, affectionately referred to as a 'jewel' situated just above the North Island. The tours enriched our appreciation of the island's unique identity and its historical significance.

## Final Day and Departure

The final day of the Gathering was a blend of discussions and role-playing exercises, focusing on potential challenges we might face while traveling overseas or hosting travelers in New Zealand. Drawing from personal experiences, I shared two instances encountered during my travels with Friendship Force, and we collectively worked towards resolving such scenarios.

As the day of departure loomed, the week seemed to have passed in the blink of an eye. Our return journey took just two and a half hours, and before we knew it, we were back in Auckland, carrying with us cherished memories and newfound friendships.

The Norfolk Island Friendship Force Australia Gathering was a remarkable event, a testament to the power of cultural exchange and the enduring bonds of friendship. It was a week filled with learning, sharing, and celebrating the diverse heritage that binds us together, reminding us of the importance of unity and understanding in an increasingly interconnected world.

Fran Kennedy  
Secretary



*The New Zealand contingent*

**The kids keep  
laughing about my  
memory. They  
won't be laughing  
at Christmas when  
there's no eggs  
under the tree!**

### **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 2024-25**

President	Debbie Lattey	021 689 348
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