



friendship force

KAPITI COAST

APRIL / MAY 2025



Club web address: www.kapiti.friendshipforce.co.nz
 Email Address: debbie@otaihanga.co.nz

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

April		
Wednesday 9 April 10.00am	Coffee with Dee Venue Two Fat Chefs, 31 Marine Parade Paraparaumu Beach	RSVP Dee Heron heron7471@gmail.com ph 021 142 6441
Wednesday 30 April 5.30pm	Happy Hour & dinner Club Vista, McLean Street, Paraparaumu Beach	No RSVP needed, just turn up Organiser Debbie Lattey debbie@otaihanga.co.nz ph 021 689 348

May		
Wednesday 14 May 10.00am	Coffee with Dee Venue Robert Harris Café, Coastlands	RSVP Dee Heron heron7471@gmail.com ph 021 142 6441
Saturday 24 May 11.45am 2.00pm	Let's Eat Out Courtyard Café, 9 Margaret Road, Raumati Wellington Comic Opera's 'The McCardo' At Te Raukura ki Kapiti, Raumati (see article in newsletter)	RSVP Lois Horsfall, mikelois@xtra.co.nz , ph 021 154 4311, or leave a message on 298 8504 Buy your own tickets

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.

The days are getting shorter and daylight saving is about to end, so it really feels like summer is nearly over. But we can't complain, it's been a pretty good summer overall and the garden needs some rain now.

This month we have our usual coffee morning with Dee, plus Happy Hour and dinner at Club Vista on 30 April. We hope to see you there.

Next month we thought you might like to take in a show, and Wellington Comic Opera is putting on a season of 'The McCardo'. This is a take on the classic Gilbert & Sullivan opera The Mikado, but set in Scotland rather than Japan. It promises to be a hoot – details on how to buy tickets are below. We thought we'd meet for a LEO first at Courtyard Café in Margaret Road, and then those who would like to go to the opera can go from there.

Four members – me, Wilson, Fran and Jan Bason – are heading up to Tauranga next weekend to join in the FF Tauranga-WBOP's 35th birthday celebrations. It is great to be able to support the club after they went to a great effort to send a contingent to our garden party. And Fran, Rhondda, Lois and Jan Bason are joining Manawatu-Whanganui's outbound journey to Adelaide and Perth, leaving on 10 October.

We are currently negotiating dates for our 2025 inbound journey from Aichi & Ehime clubs in Japan – at this stage we are looking at October or November. Hopefully we'll have firm dates soon.

The Field Reps are also organising a National Gathering from 10-13 March 2026, which will be held again at El Rancho. This is a great venue for a gathering, and more details will be available later. Our club members may be asked to help with some of the logistics. Although most of our members probably won't want to stay at the venue, we do hope lots of you will be interested in attending. This is a great opportunity to renew old acquaintances and have fun with the wider FF community.

In friendship, Debbie



Saturday 24 May 2025 at Te Raukura ki Kapiti, Raumati.

If you would like to buy tickets go to <https://www.eventfinda.co.nz/2025/the-mccardo/paraparaumu/tickets>. Cost is \$35 for gold card holders.

Coffee Mornings

April

Date: Wednesday 9 April, 10.00am
Venue: Two Fat Chefs, 31 Marine Parade, Paraparaumu Beach
R.S.V.P. Dee, 021 142 6441

May

Date: Wednesday 14 May, 10.00am
Venue: Robert Harris Café, Coastlands
R.S.V.P. Dee, 021 142 6441



Happy Hour



Date: Wednesday 30th April, 5.30pm
Venue: Club Vista, Paraparaumu Beach, 5.00pm
Organiser: Debbie, 021 689 348 – no need to RSVP, just come if you can

Let's Eat Out

Date: Saturday 24 May, 11.45am
Venue: Courtyard Café, 9 Margaret Road, Raumati
RSVP Lois Horsfall **BY THURSDAY 27TH**, mikelois@xtra.co.nz, ph 021 154 4311, or leave a message on 298 8504

The future vision of Friendship Force

A message from your FFI Board Member John Hannah

Friends I am sending this message to you all as a member of the FFI board and because we in New Zealand do not have a replacement RSM yet.

Firstly, re a new RSM, a person had been appointed but just before they were about to commence they withdrew so the recruitment process has had to be restarted. I will keep you posted on progress.

The Board, at our recent in-person meeting over 3½ days, spent most of our time considering very carefully the future of Friendship Force International (FFI).

As you are acutely aware many clubs have reducing numbers of members and many worldwide are closing due to lack of leadership and numbers of members willing to serve for a range of reasons. This is not just a New Zealand phenomenon but is worldwide.

The board see this as a “Watershed Moment in the life of FFI” and has directed our CEO to develop a plan to reinvigorate FFI. It has given him some guidelines about what this should look like, and he is currently working on a plan and will bring that back to the board shortly and once finalised it will be widely publicised amongst club leaders and all members.

FFI of the future may look and operate quite differently. Clubs will still have their place, but we do need to explore new ways to attract members in the wider sense and not just via clubs as is the current predominate way.

In the meantime, as no doubt you are all aware the world at large is in a time of significant chaos and our friends particularly in North America, the United Kingdom and Europe are feeling very distressed and uncertain just how this situation will work out. Some have even been suggesting that they would not go on Journeys to the USA. This is contrary to the way FFI sees how it should operate. We need to be “inclusive” and not “exclusive” as our new statement says.

This is therefore the very time that the Vision of FFI is most important. Below is a revised Vision, Mission, Pillars, and Values statement which the board adopted. This revision has been carefully considered, over much debate around wording, but is an attempt to refresh the key statements about what FFI is about, into today’s environment and language.

We in New Zealand may feel somewhat sheltered from this international chaos, other than the possible economic effects it may have on New Zealand.

Our friends in, particularly, North America and the United Kingdom and Europe are very concerned, so this is a time when we can reach out and support them in some small way.

Therefore, can I encourage you all to encourage you and your members to make contact with ambassadors they have hosted or hosts who have hosted them, and even if we just remind them that they have friends across the world who are thinking about them. Perhaps even see if they may be interested to have a Zoom call. Just a listening ear can be a great help.

Below is the revised **“Vision, Mission, Pillars, and Values statement”**.

“Vision

A worldwide movement of inspired people building bridges for a friendly world.

Mission

The mission of FFI is to promote world peace and understanding by creating an environment where individual friendships can be established across the barriers that separate people.

Pillars

FFI achieves this mission through three areas of work:

- Strengthening intercultural connection and friendship (Journeys/Events)
- Education and training on becoming better global citizens (Education)
- Inspiring/Engaging community and organizational partnerships and projects (Community)

Values

Friendship Force International values, appreciates, and effectively utilizes the talents of persons from diverse backgrounds, experiences, ethnicities, and perspectives. Our actions foster a welcoming and respectful environment for those with whom we interact regardless of age, appearance, beliefs, education, ethnic origin, gender identity, ideas, job classification, language, physical ability, political views, race, religion, sexual orientation or other aspects of diversity. Our mission of world peace through friendship can only succeed if all persons are welcome, treated with respect, and included equally in our programs.”

In Friendship

John Hannah

FFI Board Member / Chair of Governance Committee

An Update on books for Vanuatu

Just a quick update after your help in collecting school books for Tanna

The books arrived in Port Vila about the 28th of August and were supposed to be uplifted from the wharf by a local Rotarian. Unfortunately this did not happen. Storage fees on the wharf accumulated to the value of \$3,200.

Subsequently we have been able to get these fees waved, and through payment by the Vanuatu High Commission in Wellington will get the books transferred to the island. We have made contact with a local family who will help supply transport and accommodation while distributing the books.

Jenny and I will be in Tanna for seven days mid-April to help distribute the books and have a little R and R.

It has taken a lot longer than anticipated to get to the distribution stage but finally the Stars have aligned.

Thank you for all your help
Kind regards, Graham and Jenny Wigley



Special one-off journey fee

This letter will be of importance to anyone intending to travel on an international journey this year.



To: 2025 Friendship Force Journey Participants

From: Robert Wagner, FFI Member and Board Treasurer

March 19, 2025

Dear Journey Participant,

I'm Robert Wagner, a member of the Friendship Force of Bavaria, Germany, and Treasurer of the Friendship Force International Board of Directors. At the end of 2024, we realized that rising costs would affect FFI's 2025 budget. The Board considered several options, including raising journey fees, imposing special assessments, or using savings to cover the gap. Ultimately, we formed a special committee—led by myself and including current and past Board members—to ensure the long-term sustainability of Friendship Force and address long-standing issues in our revenue model.

With our 50th anniversary approaching and many exciting projects underway, we needed to give these initiatives time to develop. The Board decided that the simplest way to close the 2025 budget gap was to request an additional one-time fee of USD \$15 per person, per journey for all journeys between May and December 2025. For most journeys, this works out to roughly an extra \$2 per day to support the organization..

I apologize on behalf of the Board for this unexpected change, especially for those who have already paid fees for upcoming journeys. We hope that you see this fee as a necessary measure to support the organization you love, with minimal impact. However, we understand that for some members, an additional \$15 USD may be more than you feel able to pay to help Friendship Force at the moment. If you can, however, we truly appreciate your support.

Thank you for your understanding and continued commitment to our mission.

In friendship,

Robert Wagner

FFI Board

FFI is seeking new Board members to serve for four years from January 2026, to fill upcoming vacancies.

Do you know someone who would be suitable? The particular skills they are looking for this time are expertise in marketing/social media, global finance, fundraising, and international or community partnerships.

Applicants will need:

- A commitment to the FFI vision, mission and goals
- Leadership and change management skills
- Ability to think innovatively, strategically and globally
- Experience working with others from diverse cultural backgrounds
- Strong English reading/writing/speaking skills.

If you want to nominate yourself or someone else for the FFI Board of Directors, submit the completed online form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1dEExSpLJyaxQkeqvw7PHhoicIFxOSINUN-G0gKb2FnE/viewform?_kx=KJeZOowN24u83LmX2iQGe4TGBzlyWrhug1n3rmpCR9rjV-S6zDhQ-J6tm-YK5XCX.RaH2Qb&edit_requested=true#responses by midnight on May 7th 2025.

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

President	Debbie Lattey	021 689 348
Secretary	Fran Kennedy	027 2402 349
Treasurer	Wilson Lattey	021 446 156
Committee	Lois Horsfall	298 8504 021 154 4311
	Beth Lough	902 2383 027 788 8822
	Dorothy Woods	905 9099 021 296 3626
Newsletter writer	Debbie Lattey	021 689 348
Field Rep.	Graham Wigley	027 484 7446