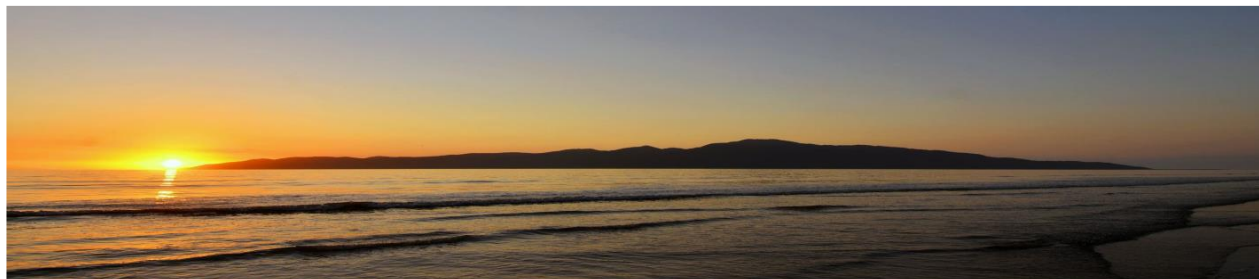




friendship force

KAPITI COAST

JUNE / JULY 2025



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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

June		
Wednesday 11 June 10.00am	Coffee with Dee Olive Grove Café, Mahara Place Waikanae	RSVP Dee Heron heron7471@gmail.com ph 021 142 6441
Sunday 29 June 11.45am	Let's Eat Out The Jolly, Mazengarb Road Paraparaumu	RSVP Lois Horsfall, mikelois@xtra.co.nz , ph 021 154 4311, or leave a message on 298 8504
July		
Wednesday 9 July 10.00am	Coffee with Dee Café Novella, by the Paraparaumu Public Library	RSVP Dee Heron heron7471@gmail.com ph 021 142 6441
Tuesday 22 July, 5.00pm **Quiz night at 7.30pm if you want to stay on!	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
August		
Sunday 3 August 12.00 noon	Soup Lunch Midlands Recreation Centre Midland Gardens Retirement Village	Fran Kennedy frankennedy@xtra.co.nz Ph 027 240 2349

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

President's Chatter

Hello friends.

The weather has certainly turned to winter, and we are starting to hunker down on these wet and cold days. I hope you are all keeping well and warm and avoiding the winter bugs.

It was great to see a number of you went to see The McCardo last month – I was sorry to miss it but it clashed with another function. I hope you all enjoyed the show – I know Wilson did, as he took part in The Mikado at College many years ago and knew all the songs off by heart!

Your committee has been working on putting together the programme for the next two months. As you can see we have our usual coffee mornings, a LEO, and a happy hour and dinner planned for June and July. And in August we start the month with our annual Soup Lunch. We do hope you can come to one or more of these events.

We will have a guest speaker at the Soup Lunch – Pam Stapleton from the Waikanae Estuary Group will be talking to us about what the group has achieved over the past 10 years or so. I heard her talk at our Waikanae Garden Circle meeting and she's a great speaker – and it's impressive what the group has achieved!

As previously notified, the Field Reps Graham and Jan are organising another National Gathering from 17-20 March 2026. This will be held at El Rancho here in Waikanae. Our club members won't need to stay in the accommodation but are welcome to come along during the day for a small charge and take part in the meetings and social functions. There is an article about this further in the newsletter. Do keep the dates free as this is a rare chance to meet up with friends from all around New Zealand and have fun together.

Our next inbound journey is two Japanese clubs – Aichi and Ehime – coming together in November. Once we have numbers I'll put out the call for hosts, but meantime if anyone would like to offer to coordinate the programme please let me know.

Wilson and I, Jan Bason and Fran attended the 35th anniversary celebrations of the Tauranga-Western Bay of Plenty Friendship Force Club which was held in Tauranga on Sunday 13 April. Members from Hamilton/Waikato, Manawatu/Whanganui and Christchurch also attended.

One of the highlights of the celebration was presentation of Certificates of Appreciation to long-standing members of the club. This included previous Kapiti members Reg and Irene Clothier, who many of you will recognise from the photo. The Western Bay of Plenty Mayor presented the certificates. It was lovely to catch up with Reg and Irene at the function – Reg's mobility isn't great but otherwise they are in good spirits.



In friendship,
Debbie

Coffee Mornings

April

Date: Wednesday 11 June, 10.00am
Venue: Olive Grove Café, Mahara Place, Waikanae
R.S.V.P. Dee, 021 142 6441

May

Date: Wednesday 9 July, 10.00am
Venue: Café Novella, by the Paraparaumu Public Library
R.S.V.P. Dee, 021 142 6441



Let's Eat Out

Date: Sunday 29 June, 11.45am

Venue: The Jolly, Mazengarb Road

RSVP Lois Horsfall **BY THURSDAY 26TH**, mikelois@xtra.co.nz,
ph 021 154 4311, or leave a message on 298 8504



Happy Hour & Dinner

Date: Tuesday 22 July, 5.00pm

Venue: Club Vista, Paraparaumu Beach

Organiser: Debbie Lattey, 021 689 348 – no need to RSVP, just turn up

Books for Vanuatu – finally delivered!!

Once again we would like to thank you for your donation of money and books. While it has taken nearly one year we are pleased to advise that your donations have contributed to 30 boxes or 650 kg of school books being delivered to the schools on the Island of Tanna, Vanuatu.

It was a challenge as tropical Cyclone Tam arrived at the same time as we landed on the Island.. We managed to hand-deliver to the main Fetukai school and three others. The Fetukai school will use the books to open their library to all surrounding schools. Also junior books were delivered to four kindergartens.

The children on the island have very little and the books were greatly appreciated.

On behalf of Friendship Force Clubs NZ
Thank you again.
Jenny & Graham Wigley



Inbound journeys 2025 – 2026

Our inbound journey assignments for 2025 and 2026 are:

- 8 – 13 November 2025 Aichi & Ehime, Japan
- November 2026 Santiago, Chile

We always have great fun with our Japanese ambassadors, and look forward to welcoming a group from the clubs of Aichi and Ehime in November this year. More details as they become available.

If you would like to put your hand up as Journey Coordinator for the Japanese journey, please let me know. I will be putting out a call for hosts once we know the numbers coming.

I am personally very excited about hosting a group from Santiago, Chile, next year, as I lived in Santiago for two years in the 1970s while working for the New Zealand Embassy, and had a great time there. Chileans are a fun-loving people and it will be great to be able to return their hospitality – albeit 50 years later! This group is also being hosted by Tauranga-WBOP Club.

Debbie

NZ-wide journeys 2025

The field Reps have provided this list of the remaining inbound and outbound journeys for our NZ clubs for 2025.

If you are interested in the outbound journeys contact the club directly.

Inbound

- Seferihisar, Turkiye to Perth, Australia and Hamilton and Waikato, New Zealand - October
- Ehime and Aichi, Japan to Sydney, Australia and Kapiti Coast, New Zealand - October
- Quad Cities, USA to Adelaide, Australia and Wairarapa, New Zealand - November
- Greater Sendai, Japan to Christchurch, New Zealand - November
- Greater Atlanta, USA to Taupo and Southland, New Zealand - November

Outbound

- Taupo, New Zealand to Newcastle and Gold Coast, Australia - July
- Hamilton and Waikato, New Zealand to Ota-Gunma and Nara, Japan - October
- Manawatu/Whanganui, New Zealand to Perth and Adelaide, Australia – October

ANNOUNCING THE 2026 FFNZ NATIONAL GATHERING

17-20 MARCH 2026



Your Field Reps Graham and Jan, with the support of the Kapiti Coast FF, have booked El Rancho Holiday Camp as the venue for our 2026 National Gathering. Some of you will remember that we held our 2021 Gathering at El Rancho – an information sheet is attached.

The confirmed dates are Tuesday 17th to Friday 20th March. This will be a largely social gathering but with the opportunity to hear from the Taupo and Tauranga-WBOP clubs on their recent very successful membership drives, plus other business matters.

Included will be the opportunity to visit Kapiti Island, go e-biking on our great bike trails, and enjoy river and beach walks.

The likely cost of the gathering will be \$350 pp which includes 3 nights' accommodation and all meals from Tuesday night through to a packed lunch on Friday. There is a limit of 42 staying at the venue.

We ask that you put the dates in your diary and ensure these dates don't clash with any inbound or outbound journeys.

More information will be sent out later in the year.

Graham & Jan
Field Reps

Soup Lunch, Sunday 3 August

Our annual Soup Lunch has been scheduled for Sunday 3 August. We have a new venue – we are holding the lunch at Midland Gardens Recreation Centre, which is a lovely venue. And a number of our members live in the Gardens, so nice and easy for them!

There will be the usual \$5 charge for the lunch, and your committee will provide the soup. Members to bring a plate of goodies for dessert. Plus there'll be a raffle.



We have a guest speaker coming – Pam Stapleton from the Waikanae Estuary Group who will give us a talk about their work in planting out the estuary and the amazing birdlife now in residence.

We'll send out a reminder closer to the date, but again get this in your diary.

An Open Letter from FFI Board Chair

Friendship Force International, Donna Simek

Dear Friendship Force Family,

In a world that sometimes feels more divided than united, our mission—to promote world peace and understanding by creating an environment where individual friendships can be established across the barriers that separate people —has never been more important.

We are living in times of political tension. But we must remember: our work is not political. It is personal. It is human. It is about meeting face to face, heart to heart, and building understanding where it may not have existed before.

Let's be clear—Friendship Force does not exist to take sides in any conflict. We exist to bring people together in spite of conflict. Political challenges may arise. Borders may grow tense. But those are precisely the moments when our work is most vital.

As we continue this work, we carry with us the legacy of our organization's founder, Wayne Smith, and our long-time supporter, President Jimmy Carter. They believed deeply in the power of citizen diplomacy—that individuals, not just governments, could bring peace and build bridges across cultural and political divides. Their vision still guides us today. Their lives remind us that just one person's commitment to peace and understanding can cause ripples across the world. We cannot let political challenges distract us from our purpose. Instead, let them strengthen our resolve.

Now is the time to lean into our mission—to continue opening our homes, sharing our lives, and extending our hands in friendship. This is how understanding grows. This is how peace begins.

Thank you for your dedication to this extraordinary organization. Thank you for standing strong for friendship, even when it's not easy. The world needs us—now, more than ever.

In friendship,
Donna Simek
Chair of the Board
Friendship Force International

What sayings do these pictures represent?

(Answers in the next newsletter – thanks to FF Manawatu-Whanganui for this item)



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