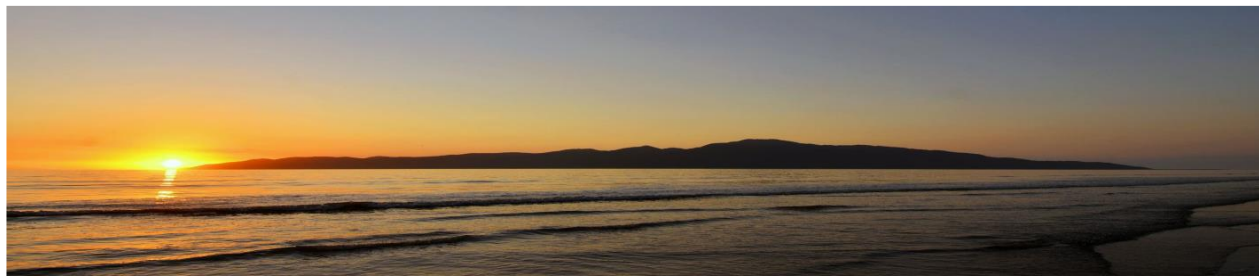




friendship force

KAPITI COAST

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2025



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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

August		
Wednesday 13 Aug 10.00am	Coffee with Dee Café Palms Kapiti Lights, Paraparaumu	RSVP Dee Heron heron7471@gmail.com ph 021 142 6441
Sunday 31 August 12.00 noon	Let's Eat Out Long Beach Tavern 40 Tutere Street, Waikanae Beach	RSVP Lois Horsfall, mikelois@xtra.co.nz , ph 021 154 4311, or leave a message on 298 8504
September		
Wednesday 10 Sept 10.00am	Coffee with Dee Sunday Cantina 31 Poplar Avenue, Raumati South	RSVP Dee Heron heron7471@gmail.com ph 021 142 6441
Thursday 25 Sept 5.30pm (note later time)	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
November		
8 – 13 November	Inbound from Aichi & Ehime	Host Coordinator and hosts needed Contact Debbie
March 2026		
17 – 20 March	National Gathering El Rancho	Contact Debbie

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.

It was great to see a really good turnout at our Soup Lunch on Sunday, and lovely to welcome eight members from Wellington FF to the event. Rhondda also brought a guest with her, Elizabeth Henry, who has decided to join our club which is great news – welcome Liz.

The venue was perfect – lovely and warm on a cold day, and the soup as usual was delicious. A big thank you to my committee for all their hard work in organising the day.

Our guest speaker Pam Stapleton impressed us all with her presentation about the work of the Waikanae Estuary Care Group. What an amazing difference they have made in the 20 years they have been planting and protecting our birdlife at the estuary. If you would like to see more about their work you can check out their website - <https://www.waikanaeestuary.org/>.

Pam said it costs \$3000 a year to continue the work they do, and they rely on donations. If you would like to donate to the cause you can find details on their website. Several of us purchased one of their fundraising calendars which contain beautiful photos of birdlife at the estuary.

Rhondda has suggested a walk to look at the work we saw in the presentation, so watch out for an email about that in the next few weeks. Apparently her Probus group did the walk recently, so she knows where to go.



We also had an interesting presentation from Graham and Jenny Wigley about their adventures in delivering the children's books to Tanna, Vanuatu. What a mission that turned out to be – very different to what they expected when they started this project! Their accommodation was very basic with no electricity and the shower didn't work, but as their visit was perfectly timed with a hurricane, they could just step out the door to have a shower. It's very much subsistence living on the island and the books were gratefully received by the schools.

Our AGM will be held in October or November and details will be in the next newsletter. Meantime I am looking for hosts for our inbound from Japan 8-13 November, so please consider putting your hand up. This will be a small group – details later in this newsletter.

Wilson and I are off later this week to the Cook Islands for some sun and relaxation, back on deck on 20 August. Take care everyone, see you at the LEO at the end of the month.

In friendship,
Debbie

Coffee Mornings

August

Date: Wednesday 13 August, 10.00am
Venue: Café Palms, Kapiti Lights, Paraparaumu
R.S.V.P. Dee, 021 142 6441

September

Date: Wednesday 10 September, 10.00am
Venue: Sunday Cantina, 31 Poplar Ave, Raumati South
R.S.V.P. Dee, 021 142 6441



Let's Eat Out

Date: Sunday 31 August, 12.00 noon
Venue: Long Beach Tavern, Waikanae Beach
RSVP Lois Horsfall **by Wednesday 27th**, mikelois@xtra.co.nz,
ph 021 154 4311, or leave a message on 298 8504



Happy Hour & Dinner

Date: Thursday 25 September, 5.30pm
Venue: Club Vista, Paraparaumu Beach
Organiser: Debbie Lattey, 021 689 348 – no need to RSVP, just turn up

Inbound from Japan

8-13 November

At this stage there are only six ambassadors coming from the clubs of Aichi and Ehime in November, although the Ambassador Coordinator is working on getting more. The group at present comprises one couple and four single women. So it looks like being a light hosting.

The group will be arriving on the Northern Explorer at 5.30pm at the Paraparaumu Station on Saturday 8 November, after having travelled down from Auckland. They will depart on Thursday 13 November for Wellington.

Friendship Force is keen for our journeys to focus on cultural activities rather than sightseeing, so I'd like to make this a family-type hosting and keep the sightseeing to a minimum. We could perhaps visit schools and retirement villages (we have a number of members in residence in them!) and spend time together cooking and socialising.

We do need a Host Coordinator for this journey, and we also need to start thinking about hosts. If you would like to offer a bed please let me know.

Debbie

What sayings do these pictures represent?

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



From CEO Jeremi Snook

I'm filled with profound gratitude for the incredibly positive impact that FFI has made on the world. Each of you has been part of something truly extraordinary – a movement that has connected hearts, minds, and cultures across the globe. This foundation of friendship and connection is what makes our next chapter possible...

A Pivotal Decision

At our February Board meeting, after months of thoughtful deliberation, our Board of Directors made a unanimous decision: **FFI must evolve from being primarily a socially-conscious travel organization to a movement that inspires global connections, learning, and peace-building.** This decision emerged from recognizing that in today's world, people are feeling frustrated and disconnected, and our mission has never been more vital.

The Board formalized our path forward with a clear vision: *A worldwide movement of inspired people building bridges for a more friendly world.* Our mission remains unchanged – promoting world peace and understanding by creating friendships across the barriers that separate people. This transformation is built on three foundational pillars:

Strengthening intercultural connection and friendship through journeys, events, and meaningful exchanges that include day hosting, meal sharing, and themed experiences.

Education and training on becoming better global citizens through courses, conferences, and learning opportunities that empower us all to be bridge-builders.

Inspiring community and organizational partnerships that amplify our impact through collaborations with universities, cultural organizations, and corporate sponsors.

What's Happening Now

We're already taking concrete steps: engaging a marketing firm to strengthen our global movement message, reviewing our membership model for sustainability, and launching a new Leadership Circle this summer to empower club leaders and field representatives. We're also preparing for our 50th anniversary in 2027 with a major fundraising campaign.

FFI has recently reviewed and revised its Vision and supporting statement.

Vision

A worldwide movement of inspired people building bridges for a more 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.

Answers to previous puzzles



Holy smoke



Fight tooth and nail



The buck stops here



Walking the plank

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 2025

President	Debbie Lattey	293 3252	021 689348
Treasurer	Wilson Lattey	293 3252	021 446 156
Secretary	Fran Kennedy	905 5491	027 2402 349
Committee	Lois Horsfall	298 8504	021 1544311
	Beth Lough	902 2383	027 7888822
	Dorothy Woods	905 9099	021 2963626
Newsletter writer	Debbie Lattey	293 3252	021 689348
Field Rep.	Graham Wigley		027 484 7446