



Sunseeker



Volume 27 Number 4 - The Friendship Force of the Sunshine Coast Inc. – April 2016

Changing the Way You See the World

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The Friendship Force pledge

As a member of the Friendship Force
I recognize that I can make a difference
I recognize 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 the
people of other countries, the cause of friendship, love and peace
can be furthered
I can make a difference

Meeting Dates

Board Meeting	General meeting	Picnic Meeting
10 May 2016	22 May 2016	24 April 2016

Dates For Your Diary

24 April	Picnic Meeting: Wirreanda Park, Short St, Buderim
12 May	Dine Out: Buderim Tavern, 81 Burnett St Buderim, on Thursday 12th May 5453 3777

President's Ponderings

As is the case with so many members of Friendship Force, we are currently on holiday, this time in the Blue Mountains, where we are able to enjoy much cooler weather.

Our domestic exchange to Albany was a great success and all our ambassadors have reported very positively on the experience. Apparently their hosts were extremely welcoming and were led by a most dynamic Exchange Director. My thanks to our ED, Tony Sayer, for a job well done.

A group of our members have been working on updating our Constitution or Rules and Standing Orders. Over the years some inconsistencies have arisen in these documents and they are being revised to improve clarity and reflect the views and needs of our members. It is hoped that the final documents will be ready for ratification by our members at the

May general meeting of the Club.

In June and July we will be hosting exchanges from Salisbury, South Australia, and Christchurch, New Zealand. We look forward to full involvement of all our Club members in these activities. Maggie Overend, as ED for both exchanges, and her committees are well advanced with plans for the exchanges.

I look forward to catching up with many of you at our next Picnic Meeting at Wirreanda Park on 24 April.

In Friendship,

Jim Macready, President

Group Dinners

Jean and I have been enthusiastic hosts of about a dozen "group dinners" since we joined the club almost a decade ago. We enjoy having 8-10 guests around a candle lit table, with the conversation assisted by good food and wine. We try to avoid religion and politics, but rarely, if ever, succeed.

Invariably, Ambassadors rate the group dinners very high on their exit evaluation form, indicating that they are a vital part of an exchange.

Although our preference is for an evening meal, one of the most memorable meals was when a planned meal at the Wharf morphed into a small group meal (SGM). The rain forced us to collect four Japanese Ambassadors and their hosts and bring them to our home. Jean spread out a blanket on the floor of our living room and we all sat on the floor and ate fish and chips from paper wrappings, like we used to do as kids. This also remains a happy memory for our Japanese friends who comment on it from time to time.

I am sure that many of our members will have equally enjoyable memories of SGMs and it would be interesting to hear their stories in the context of the current interest (or lack of it) in group dinners.

It came as a surprise to me that, although 41 members indicated a willingness to host a group dinner in their response to our recent survey, we constantly appear to be short of hosts. Is it the perception of an expectation to provide a "knife and fork" formal dinner or perhaps the costs involved?

I would love to hear your views on this topic.

Tom Ledwidge

Group dinner/ Lunch – Workshop

This is an invitation to members who have not as yet hosted a group meal for visiting ambassadors, but may wish offer to do so in the future.

You will be guests of the Ledwidges at their home mid to late May for an evening meal. There will be no charge for the meal, but guests may wish to bring their own beverages.

The aim of the workshop is to demonstrate one style of group meal and to explore a few other catering options.

Interested members are requested to register by email to me before Sunday 8 May.

Tom Ledwidge

Greeters and Morning Tea Helpers

*Please note that to allow sufficient set up time you will need to be at the hall from 9 am. **If you won't be attending please make arrangements for another member to replace you.***

Will greeters please look after new members and visitors and introduce them to other members to make them feel at home.



Morning tea and Greeters

Greeters

Anne & Iain Green



Morning tea

Gillian Dwyer

Bill Laws & Daphne Leach

Robyn & Mike McFarlane

Microphone Monitor

John Rundle

Role of Microphone Monitor

Millwell Hall has poor acoustics, while many of our members suffer from hearing difficulties – an unfortunate combination.

Experience has shown that is essential that everyone wishing to be heard, whether officials or members, uses a microphone at all times.

The position of Microphone Monitor was established by the Board to ensure that everyone is able to be heard at club meetings.

The **duties** of the Microphone Monitor include:

1. testing one of the radio microphones before the meeting to ensure that it works properly;
2. sitting in the front row near the top table (where board members sit during meetings);
3. being ready to take the spare microphone from the top table;
4. carrying the microphone to a club member wishing to speak from the floor;
5. ensuring that the speaker uses the microphone effectively (ie, close to, and in front of, his or her mouth) at all times;
6. carrying the microphone to the next speaker nominated by the meeting chairman;
7. returning the microphone to the top table when all members have spoken; and
8. remaining vigilant, ready to take the microphone to cover the next question or statement from the floor.

Next General Meeting

Sunday 22 May 2016, at 9.30 am

Millwell Road Community Centre Maroochydore

Please note the earlier than usual date.

General Meeting dates in 2016

31 January

31 July

20 March*

25 September

22 May*

27 November

** Note: March & May meetings **not** on last Sunday*



To all those members who are not feeling well: we hope you make a speedy recovery. If you know of anyone who is on the sick list would you please contact Peg Turner, who will send a cheery “get well” message.

Reminder – If you are travelling on exchange with another FF Club, please remember that your application has to be signed by our President.

Club Calendar

April 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Notes
					1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Board Meeting 2pm, 5 Apr
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	Picnic Meeting 10:30am, Wirreanda Park

May 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Notes
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Dine Out, Buderim Tavern
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	Board Meeting 2pm, 10 May
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	General Meeting, 9:30am
29	30	31					

June 2016

Not yet detailed

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Notes
			1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Dine Out, Oceanside Kawana Hotel
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Board Meeting 2pm, 14 Jun
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
26	27	28	29	30			Picnic Meeting

Inbound Exchanges

Salisbury, South Australia

13 – 20 June 2016

#AUS D130 ED Maggie Overend



There are 14 Ambassadors coming in on this Exchange who have all been matched with Hosts. I'm **urgently looking for two co-hosts** to help two members who are hosting two ladies each for this exchange; one hosting is in Caloundra and the other in Maroochydore. We need to finalise bookwork shortly. A booking sheet for the activities has been sent out to all members. If you wish to attend any events please pay by the Picnic Meeting 24 Apr or the General Meeting on 22 May.

Maggie Overend

Christchurch, New Zealand

12 – 19 July 2016

#12640 ED Maggie Overend



The Hosts and the 18 Ambassadors are in touch with each other and everyone is looking forward to the exchange. A booking sheet has been sent out to all members and those wishing to attend any activity please pay by the General Meeting on 22 May or the Picnic Meeting on 24 June.

Please note an error appeared in the Christchurch booking sheet; Mon 12 July should read Tue 12 July.

Maggie Overend

Austin, Texas

26 September to 3 October 2016

#12844 ED Gayle Macready



I am delighted that Ambassadors from Austin Texas will be arriving on the Sunshine Coast on Monday 26th September and departing on Monday 3 October, 2016

If you are interested in being on the exchange committee, to help with the planning to make this a fun-filled time for these Ambassadors, would you please contact me. If you have any ideas for an activity which you think we should consider including in the exchange, please let me know.

This will be an opportunity to host International Ambassadors who are English speaking and usually very positive and enjoyable visitors to our country. I will appreciate members' offering to be hosts, co-hosts and dinner hosts.

Gayle Macready

Outbound Exchanges

Albany, Western Australia

See my report on the recent Albany exchange on page 7.

Tony Sayer

Other Activities

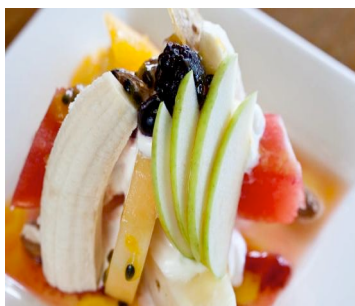
Social Events



See Social Committee report on page 7.

Editor

Dine Outs



The next Dine Out is at Buderim Tavern, 81 Burnett St Buderim, on Thursday 12th May 5453 3777

Pam Ferguson

Bundaberg Club 25th Birthday

On Saturday 25th June, Bundaberg Club will be celebrating its 25th Birthday with a Country Style Celebration. President Jim has asked me to organise any members who would be interested in joining Bundaberg Club's celebrations.

I have a couple of suggestions, namely: Travel by train departing Friday 24th and returning Monday 26th. Car pool and perhaps spend a couple of days in Hervey Bay en route.

I am open to other suggestions.

Please contact me if you are interested in going to Bundaberg.

Margaret Williams

May birthdays



Happy Birthday to:

Pat	Richardson	5	May
Irene	Holdcroft	8	May
Heather	Haythorpe	10	May
Ray	Troyahn	21	May
Pat	Blakeman	22	May

Have you changed your address?



If you change your postal address, phone number, email address, etc. would you please remember to let either the database administrator (Mike McFarlane) or the *Sunseeker* editor (Tony Sayer) know of the changes.

Thank you, **Editor**

Next Sunseeker

Please put "Sunseeker" in the subject line and email contributions to Tony Sayer by Friday 13 May 2016

Editor

The Albany Exchange

14 of our members spent a week in Albany on a domestic exchange last month. From the time we arrived by car or bus at our meeting point, on Wednesday 9 March, we knew we were in good hands. FF Albany and local venues had been highly organised by Don Titterton, our very energetic Albany ED, who led us through a week of varied and most interesting activities, with plenty of food to keep our energy up.

Our ambassadors all enjoyed themselves. Some of their comments included:

"I wouldn't have changed anything at all about the Exchange ...really enjoyed it. Had lovely hosts ...ED Don was great...food was great ...nice welcome and farewell...night out to dinner host home was lovely. The games were fun. The whole itinerary was good...nice that the Mayor meets the Ambassadors and that the reporter came from the local paper."

"I did not notice any hiccups, and thoroughly enjoyed the exchange. Lovely place, great people, immense enthusiasm."

"For our evaluation of the exchange we give top marks for hosts/program/dinners. It was not too rushed and we loved the late starts and most afternoons free. When there was an evening activity we were always home early enough in the afternoon to have a quick 'granddad nap' before we had to go out again."

I can't really add much to that. However, I should note that our presence in Albany was not unnoticed. At the Mayor's reception, the Albany ED, who is also Albany club's publicity officer, asked me if anyone could speak about the Japan children's humanitarian exchange to the Sunshine Coast in 2014. Fortunately, ambassadors Judi and Glen Gordon were involved with that exchange, and Judi was happy to speak about it to those gathered at the reception. Don also organised for Judi to be interviewed on air by ABC local radio a few days later. She did a great job – quite a star.

A reporter with camera from the Albany weekly newspaper The Weekender visited us one lunchtime to take some photos; a few of us appeared in a feature on FF Albany in the March 17 edition of The Weekender.

It was my first exchange as an ED; I enjoyed it and learned a lot. On the back pages of this edition of Sunseeker I'm using my Editor's privilege by including a selection of photos from the exchange.

Tony Sayer, ED

Social Committee Report

The billys have had a test boil and are warmed up ready for our ANZAC day morning tea on the 24th April at Wirreanda Park, 10:30am. Bring along your picnic gear and chairs and tables. The bikkies and bully beef sandwiches will be provided. There will be iced tea as well. I'm sure the diggers had iced tea!? Well, we will have it in gratitude as we remember them. (I thought about getting in a dingo digger to make a trench so we can really get in to the spirit, but the council probably wouldn't approve.) Bring along an item of memorabilia if you have one. Everyone will be interested.

Merrilyn Rundle, Convenor

Some memories from the Albany Exchange



Wind Farm



One or the other – or both?



Don, the Albany ED



Overlooking Salmon Holes



Anzac Memorial



National Anzac Centre



Banksia Farm, Mt Barker





Let the
Games begin



The Games Champions
FFSC



And their prize is...



The Albany Fly

Albany Entertainment Centre



Judi on Local ABC Radio



Replica Brig Amity



The Crew



Captain Tony, our ED



Happy ambassadors after our farewell lunch

