

**MINUTES of the GENERAL MEETING OF THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE of the SUNSHINE COAST** held at Millwell Road Community Centre, Maroochydore, 20 March 2016

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**Commenced:** 9.35

**Welcome** President Jim Macready welcomed members, and two visitors, Bev and Terry Clarke and gave the customary fire procedure warning.

**Pledge:** The members recited the Friendship Force Pledge

**Side Tables:** President Jim Macready introduced the operators of the side tables:

Margaret Williams (Raffles)

Pam Ferguson – Salisbury and Christchurch exchanges and merchandise

Gayle Macready (Austin exchange)

**Minutes of the meeting held on 31 January 2016:** Accepted, proposed by John Gosney, seconded by Jim Haxton. Carried. No matters arising.

**Ratification of Board decisions:** John Gosney announced the following decisions taken at the Board meetings on 10 February and 15 March:

**10 February**

1. Group dinners to be financed by a payment to dinner hosts of \$10 per ambassador, to be taken from the hosting fee. Members' contributions to be negotiated with the dinner hosts
2. Morning tea supervisor job to be separate from Activities
3. Activities Officer will now be called Social Co-ordinator
4. Membership Officer to develop a plan for the induction and support of new members
5. A \$500 donation to be made to FFI to assist with the redevelopment of the web site

**15 March**

1. Jim Macready to meet with John Gosney and Ray Troyahn to discuss the draft documents from the Constitutional Review
2. Jean Ledwidge to proof-read the draft documents
3. Bernie Treston to examine the draft documents from a legal perspective
4. The new group dinner policy to be debated at this meeting
5. Ron and Coral Usher's membership application to be accepted
6. A list of possible exchanges for 2017 to be considered by this meeting

Moved Bernie Treston, Seconded Jim Haxton that the meeting ratify these decisions - carried

**Correspondence Inwards:**

John Gosney reported that he had received two letters from Gayle Torrens, one expressing her appreciation for the support of Friendship Force members following Wayne's death and one offering a book as a raffle prize.

**Correspondence Outwards:** None

Moved John Rundle, Seconded Jack Kruizinga that the Inwards Correspondence be accepted. Carried.

**Financial Report:** Presented by Tony Linedale.

Major transactions for February/March included General ac. – receipt of \$580 from the Australia Day lunch, transfer of \$1440 to the Conference ac. and a \$500 donation paid to FFI. Exchange Inward – deposit of \$250 paid for the NZ exchange; Exchange Outward – adjustments underway for the Albany exchange; Conference ac. – deposit \$350 paid to Mooloolaba Surf Club.

Current balances are:

- General Account – \$510.11
- Exchange Inward account – \$250.00
- Exchange Outward account - \$101.16
- ING Investment account - \$8969
- Conference Account - \$1090.00
- Loan to Conference - \$4915.00

Moved by Tony Linedale, seconded by Jack Kruizinga that the financial report be accepted, carried

### **Exchange Reports:**

**Albany:** Carol Harman presented a report in the absence of ED Tony Sayer who has not yet returned from the exchange

**Salisbury:** Gillian Dwyer reported on this exchange in the absence of ED Maggie Overend. There are 14 ambassadors coming. Hosts and dinner hosts are still required

**Christchurch:** Gillian Dwyer reported that 18 ambassadors are coming and that there is a need for five or six more hosts and cohosts, as well as more dinner hosts

**Austin, Texas:** Gayle Macready reported that she had had several telephone conversations with the Austin ED but that planning was not as advanced as she would like at this stage. The ambassadors' program in Australia is still not finally settled and they currently have five definite and six possible ambassadors. Gayle is forming an Exchange Committee and taking names for hosts and cohosts.

**Rostov-on-Don and Hsinchu (Taiwan):** Chris Harman said that he had negotiated air transport to both destinations with Escape Travel – the cost would be \$2390

Tom Ledwidge said that he intended to write a letter of condolence to the Rostov ED for the loss of life in the recent air crash at Rostov airport and proposed that he send it on behalf of the club. Seconded Chris Harman. Carried.

**Blue Mountains Conference:** Gayle Macready reported on Sunshine Coast club members' attendance at the conference. Our members played a significant role in the conference proceedings. Our presentation on the 2017 conference was well received and we obtained 104 expressions of interest in that conference. Gayle said that the memorial service for recently deceased members, including three from this club was very moving.

**2017 Conference Report:** Jim Haxton reported that the Conference Committee had received a bonus of \$2850 in waived deposits from the Maroochydore RSL and Surf Club, which made the task of managing the finances easier. He asked members to suggest possible conference speakers.

## Other Reports:

- **Social:** Marilyn Rundle reported that the picnic lunch at Nelly Rogers' house, followed by trivia had been successful. Sufficient profit had been made to enable the April picnic at Wirreanda Park and a Mother's Day lunch in May to be provided to members free of charge. Marilyn suggested that the club might want to offer an official farewell function to Nelly.
- **Membership:** Gillian Dwyer reported three new members to be considered by the Board for induction at the next meeting.
- **Publicity:** Jean Ledwidge reported that she, Anne Derksen and Gillian Dwyer were working together on a publicity plan to target younger people who might have the time to participate actively in our club. Specific groups under consideration were educators (teachers and university and college staff who have the benefit of long vacations), and other recently retired people.
- **Newsletter:** Jim Haxton reported that on his return from Albany regular editor Tony Sayer will resume his duties and will be editing the Sunseeker for the foreseeable future
- **Dine-outs:** Pam Ferguson reported that the venue for 14 April, the Green Zebra at Parrearra accepted only cash. The 12 May venue would be the Buderim Tavern.
- **Merchandise:** Pam Ferguson reported that she had metal badges and cloth badges for shirt pockets available.
- **Almoner:** Peg Turner apologized for a lack of activity while she moved house.
- **Club website and database:** Mike McFarlane reported that his current task was to consolidate all the existing copies of the database into one master copy which he would upload to the website. He would be putting his plan for this project to the next Board meeting.

## General Business

- **Bundaberg 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** – Margaret Williams announced that the Bundaberg club had invited our members to attend this function on 25 June. About 9 or 10 members expressed interest in a show of hands.
- **Exchange Manuals:** Jim Macready announced that the club would be updating the ED manuals when Tony Sayer and Maggie Overend had completed their currently planned exchanges.
- **ED for Lincoln exchange:** We will be hosting ambassadors from Lincoln, Nebraska in October 2017 and will require an ED.
- **Outbound Exchanges 2017:** Jim Macready announced that we had received from FFI a list of clubs who still had vacancies for outbound exchanges in 2017 and called on members present to express their interest in these exchanges. The results were:
  - **USA** – 0
  - **New Zealand** - 9
  - **Nepal** - 4
  - **Georgia** - 4
  - **Brazil** - 3
  - **Africa** - 3
- **Group Dinners:** The meeting broke into four working groups to consider the Board's new policy on Group Dinners. The four groups reported a wide range of disparate views which will be considered at the next Board Meeting.
- **Raffle:** Margaret Williams conducted the raffle which raised \$52

Meeting closed: 12.05 pm