



Sunseeker



Volume 28 Number 2 - The Friendship Force of the Sunshine Coast Inc. – February/March 2017

Changing the Way You See the World

President: Jim Macready

Vice-President: Mike McFarlane

Secretary: John Gosney

Treasurer: Bill Laws

Exchange Co-ordinator: Gayle Macready

Editor: Tony Sayer

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www.thefriendshipforce.org

FF Sunshine Coast Website:

www.friendshipforcesunshinecoast.org.au

FF Australia Website:

www.friendshipforce-aussie.org.au

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suncoastff@gmail.com

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 Meetings	General meeting	Picnic Meeting
14 Mar	26 Mar	30 Apr
2 May	4 Jun	TBA

Dates For Your Diary

26 Mar	After meeting: TBA
13 April	Dine-out at Coolum Beach Hotel

President's Ponderings

The 2017 Friendship Force Australia National Conference has now come and gone, and what an exhilarating event it was. Most of the attendees thoroughly enjoyed it and many voted it the best conference ever.

I think that the main contributing factors to its success were the excellent venue, a tight program and the sense of humour which was evident throughout the conference. These events are not only designed to further the participants' knowledge of Friendship Force but also to enable them to renew old friendships and make new ones.

Our thanks must go to Jim Haxton as convener for the enormous amount of time he put into ensuring that everything worked well and for managing to keep within budget and, in fact, to end up with a small surplus. Forty seven members of our club participated in the conference

which showed a great deal of support from our organisation. Many of these people gave up considerable amounts of time and energy for the event.

Our next major event will be the exchange to Hsinchu, Taiwan, and Rostov-on-Don, Russia, in May; planning for this is well under way. Gayle and I are very disappointed that we have had to pull out of this exchange which we believe will provide many wonderful experiences for our ambassadors. We wish those that will be going a wonderful time.

In friendship,

Jim Macready, President

What happened to the February issue of Sunseeker

With the Conference pending, there was too much going on in February for my contributors to take time off to draft their contributions for *Sunseeker*. So, with President Jim's permission, I held over any news until the March edition, which is a bumper issue with a report and lots of pics from the Conference. My thanks to Maggie Overend and Tom Ledwidge for their contributions to the photo gallery.

Editor

Meet your Board and other Office Holders for 2017

Executive

President: Jim Macready
Vice-President: Mike McFarlane
Secretary: John Gosney
Treasurer: Bill Laws
Exchange Co-ordinator: Gayle Macready

Other Office Holders

Social Activities: Merrilyn Rundle
Membership: Gillian Dwyer
Dine-outs and Merchandise: Pam Ferguson
Morning Tea: Helen Treston
Raffles: Coral Usher
Sunseeker editor: Tony Sayer
2017 Conference Chairman: Jim Haxton
Flags and Banners: Glen Gordon
Publicity: Jean Ledwidge
Website and Data Base: Mike McFarlane
Microphone monitor: John Rundle

Next General Meeting

Sunday 26 March 2017, at 9.30 am
Millwell Rd Community Centre,

General Meetings for 2017

26 Mar, 4 Jun (delayed May meeting), 23
Jul, 24 Sep, 26 Nov

Board Meetings for 2017

14 Mar, 2 May, 11 Jul, 15 Aug, 12 Sep,
17 Oct, 14 Nov

Report on 27th Australian FF Conference

The conference is done and dusted. I believe that it was a great success.

From the reports I have had from many members and visitors it has been rated as one of the best. Comments included 'great venue', the fact we had no raffles and no early bird prizes, the meals and morning teas, the program and the friendliness of the home club.

There were many club members who put a lot of work and effort into the organisation of this event. We must thank our MC's Judy and Ray for keeping things moving.

We had 47 of our own members at the conference and most of them volunteered to work during the conference which made things run smoothly. The Executive consisted of President Jim as Treasurer, Heather as Co-convenor, Ray as Program Organiser and myself as Convenor. We seconded Judy Hill to the Exec meetings when she volunteered to act as MC. We had many busy and fruitful meetings. Sub-committee leaders Gillian Dwyer and Marilyn Berry both did sterling jobs and put in many hours of work assisted by their committee members. It was a whole club effort.

The RSL venue was one of the best conference venues we have had; their staff was always willing to attend to our requests swiftly without fuss. Everything worked and was ready when needed. The rooms were set out as we had planned. Ian Barnett (the IT Man in the corner) was a gem and was a large part of making the conference a success. The Gala Dinner was run with professionalism by Kate and her team. The one man band "Totally Charlie" proved a success – indicated by the number of people on the dance floor. He gained two bookings from his performance.

The Australia Council meeting was very capably chaired by Jim Macready, and John Gosney acted as secretary, efficiently having the minutes ready for printing and distribution the next morning.

The function at the Surf Club organised by Heather was well received by all and the food was of a high quality and service good.

Sunshine Coast Grammar provided us with a mixture of great musical talent which was enjoyed by all. Our guest speakers all proved interesting and entertaining.

Financially, the conference ran at a profit, albeit a small one. With expenses close to \$40,000 we managed to have a profit of just less than \$1,000.

Jim Haxton, Conference convener

Congratulations!!

I have just returned home after what I believe was the best Australian Conference ever!

Well done and thank you for coordinating a very successful Conference, bringing together Friendship Force members from all around Australia.

The general feeling I observed was that of great camaraderie and what better setting than that of the venue chosen for the conference. It had everything we needed.

Your program was excellent and gave us all the opportunity to participate in discussions; we learned much and were entertained by your guest speakers, and the students from the Sunshine Coast Grammar School were a delight.

Please convey my thanks and congratulations to your conference committee for giving us a well run, interesting and most enjoyable conference. I guess by now you have had the opportunity to sit back, put your feet up and say... it's over!

Sue Brannen, Australian Coordinator FFI

Club Calendar

March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Notes
			1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Dineout at Phons Thai, 12 noon
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Board Meeting 14 Mar, 2pm
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
26	27	28					General Meeting 9:30am

April 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Notes
						1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Dine-out. Coolum Beach Hotel, 12 noon
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
30							Picnic Meeting. Coffee at Sunshine Plaza

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

Patricia & Tony Barry



Morning tea

Jenny & David Allan

Jan Bell

Marilyn & Nev Berry

Inbound Exchanges

All Indonesia

8 to 14 October 2017

#13322 ED Jean Ledwidge



Travel arrangements for this exchange are now finalised and ambassadors will be here for six nights, starting on 8 October. Numbers are still not final but I am communicating with them about their wishes for activities while they are here, and arranging airport transport for them. They are looking forward to meeting us.

Jean Ledwidge

Lincoln, Nebraska, USA

5 to 12 November 2017

#13269 ED Judy Hill



Pat Novak from Lincoln has informed me she has 10 takers at the moment. They hope to get another five ambassadors.

So far I have seven people offering to host, one more to co-host and no takers yet on dinners, etc. I would like to get those numbers up a bit. Judi & Glen Gordon have offered to be on the committee for this exchange with me. Again one or two more would not go amiss, especially as all three of us will be away from time to time.

As mentioned above, a tentative program has been put up, but, as a newbie, I welcome all assistance.

Judy Hill

Outbound Exchanges

Hsinchu, Taiwan (11-18 May 2017)

#13062 ED Chris Harman



13 of our members and two from other FF clubs.

For Australian and UK passports, Taiwan is visa-free. We arrive in Taipei from a variety of flights and will stay at the same hotel on May 10. On the morning of May 11, the Host Exchange Director, Wan Fang, and President of the Hsinchu Club will meet us at the hotel to escort us on the bullet train from Taipei to Hsinchu. The Host allocations and programme itinerary should arrive soon.

Thanks to Tom Ledwidge for putting together our photos and a short bio for the booklet to give to the Hosts. Thanks to John Gosney for negotiating Mayoral pleasantries exchanges between Sunshine Coast and Hsinchu. John has procured donations of Australian flags to present to whomever.

Rostov-on-Don, Russia (20-27 May 2017)

#13063 ED Chris Harman

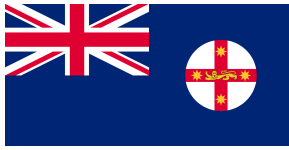


There are 13 of our members and one from another FF Club

The Host E.D. is Oxana Menshikova. While on her recent trip to NSW and Queensland, Oxana met with our Exchange Committee. She has negotiated in Rostov for a smooth process for us to apply for Russian Visas. We will all meet at the same hotel in Rostov on the morning of May 11 so that we can meet the Hosts. The Host allocations and programme itinerary should arrive soon. Thanks to Tom Ledwidge for putting together our photos and a short bio for the booklet. John Gosney has procured donations of Australian flags to present to whomever.

Chris Harman

Kempsey, NSW
20 to 25 July 2017
#13503 ED Anne Green

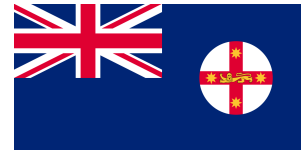


Our program for the Kempsey Club's Inbound Journey to the Sunshine Coast in July is firing ahead. We shall be welcoming 13 Ambassadors from Kempsey Club.

Thank you to all of you who have already offered to be hosts and cohosts and to host group dinners. I appreciate your generosity greatly. The main aim of this Exchange is to offer our hospitality to fellow Friendship Force members. If you think you are able to assist in any way please do not hesitate in contacting me. We still need more offers of assistance in each of these areas.

Anne Green

Southern Sydney, NSW
6 to 13 September 2017
#13502 ED Margaret Hill



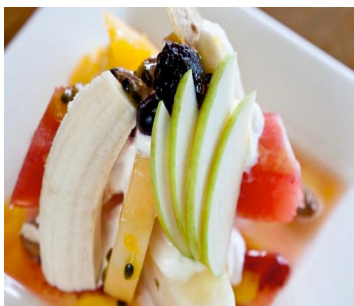
***Words to come in the next issue

Margaret Hill

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

Other Activities

Dine Outs



The April Dineout will be at Coolum Beach Hotel, 1822 David Low Way, Coolum, at 12 noon on 13 April. Please call Pam to confirm your attendance.

Pam Ferguson

Social Events



17 of us had a fun night going to see Hidden Figures at the Nambour Majestic Cinema. Apart from our group there were only two others in the theatre. We were well behaved and didn't roll our jaffas.

After the general meeting on the 26th March I'd like to organise a barbecue. Details will be announced later in a separate email.

Our next picnic meeting is April 30th and I am proposing that we do coffee and cake at the Sunshine Plaza. I will let you know exactly where with another notice.

I haven't had much feedback about the matinee Petula Clark concert on Sunday 28th May. If any folk are interested, please make your own bookings, but I will ask for a show of hands at the meeting, so I can book a large table if there are a few of us having lunch at the theatre before the show.

Merrilyn

March/April birthdays



Gillian Dwyer	1 Mar
Patricia Barry	7 Mar
Mike Matthews	10 Mar
Jan Bell	19 Mar
Jenny Donovan	21 Apr
Odette Linedale	21 Apr
Glenys Marsh	22 Apr

Have you changed your postal 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.

Editor



Harmony Day

Harmony Day is a celebration of our cultural diversity – a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home. Held every year on 21 March. The Day coincides with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Ideals clearly congruent with the mission of Friendship Force enshrined in our pledge "...to be a friend to people of the world".

To celebrate Harmony Day, Sunshine Coast Regional Council invites the community to enjoy free screenings of a selection of diverse Australian short films which focus on social inclusion and identity.

The film screenings start at 12.30pm on March 21 at Caloundra, Maroochydore and Nambour libraries. Enjoy activities, displays; light refreshments will be provided. Bookings are essential via council's library [website](#).

Tom & Jean Ledwidge

House Sitting

For those of you lucky enough to be able to get away from home for 2-3 months, you might like to take advantage of an offer from a member of Friendship Force Newcastle who likes our Coast.

I would love to house/dog/cat sit your home if you are going away for, say, 2-3 months.

Call Sue Burrough

Next Sunseeker

Please put "Sunseeker" in the subject line and email contributions to Tony Sayer by Friday 21 April.

If you neglect to include "Sunseeker" in the subject line, your email may get overlooked in my busy email Inbox.

Editor

Pics from the FF 27th Australian National Conference







