



Sunseeker



Volume 28 Number 11 - The Friendship Force of the Sunshine Coast Inc. – December 2017

Changing the Way You See the World

President: Mike McFarlane

Vice-President: David Allan

Secretary: John Gosney

Treasurer: Bill Laws

Journey Mentor: 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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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 Meetings	Picnic Meetings
16 January 2018	28 January 2018	25 February 2018

Dates For Your Diary

28 January 2018	Australia Day Lunch (& Gen Meeting) – Mapleton Men's Shed
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President's Ponderings

As the calendar year ends we have a lot of Friendship Force experiences to reflect on. For many it has been a busy and interesting year. For Rob and I it includes the FFA National Conference, Journeys to Taiwan and Russia, visit from Kempsey Club, a BBQ with Indonesian Ambassadors, hosting Mexican Ambassadors, catching up with Friendship Force friends from Hsinchu, as well as many dine outs and social activities with our local FFSC friends.

And speaking of social activities the recent Christmas Party/Lunch was fantastic – great food, lots of fun, sock puzzles, Christmas quiz, trivia quiz, jokes, and conversations. Many thanks to the hard-working organisers Merrilyn and John, Coral and Ron, and Judi and Glen – what a team!

I am really looking forward to 2018. Carol Harman and Judi Gordon have volunteered to lead the Membership team. Jenny Allan offered to coordinate the morning teas (don't be afraid to offer assistance). Robyn McFarlane has offered to lead the Publicity Group. Tom Ledwidge is keen to progress the Cultural Diversity Group. Tony Sayer's photo fingers are itching as he continues with *Sunseeker* and the Meeting Rejuvenation group.

There are enthusiasm and revitalisation ideas being aired amongst all these leaders and the Board, so I urge all members to join in the fun and make 2018 a great year for FFSC.

In friendship,

Mike McFarlane
President



Board Decisions

There has not yet been a meeting of the new Board which was elected on 26 November. Our first meeting will be on Tuesday 16 January. I will try to remember to take a photo of the new Board for the January *Sunseeker*.

Club shirts

For those members who put their orders in by the 15 December deadline, Sue has placed a bulk order for shirts. She expects that we will have them in time to wear at the January meeting.



Next general Meeting

Sunday 28 January 2018, at 10.00 am
Mapleton Men's Shed, Delicia Road, Mapleton
(Off Obi Obi Road, in the heart of Mapleton)

Club Calendar

December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Notes
31					1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	Christmas Lunch at French restaurant in Flaxton
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	

January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Notes
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	Board Meeting, 2pm
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
28	29	30	31				Australia Day lunch, Mapleton Men's Shed

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 (March meeting)

Glenis Ayling & John Seebeck



Morning tea (January meeting)

Jan Bell

Jenny Donovan

Glen & Judi Gordon

Forthcoming FF Journeys

INTERNATIONAL JOURNEYS 2017

Inbounds 2017			
Completed	#13678	Mundo Maya, Mexico	Judy Hill
Outbounds 2017			
Completed			

INTERNATIONAL JOURNEYS 2018

Inbounds 2018			
May 8 -14	#14057-3	Winnipeg Canada.	Cancelled
August	#14148	Piracicaba, Brazil	
September 10 - 17	#14297	Japanese Language Journey	Helen Treston
Late October - early November	#14037	Tarapoto, Peru	Jenny Allan
Outbounds 2018			
June 11 - 18	#14108	Quebec, Canada	Jim Macready
June 20 - 27	#14108	North Bay, Canada	Jim Macready

DOMESTIC JOURNEYS 2018

Outbound			
March 19 - 26	#14338	Melbourne	Coral/Ron Usher
Inbound			
July 27 - August 3	#14339	Central Coast	

INTERNATIONAL JOURNEYS 2019

We have requested mutual Journeys to Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Austin, Texas.

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We are looking for Journey Co-ordinators for the inbound Journey from Brazil, as well as the inbound Domestic Journey from Central Coast. If you have an interest in being involved in the planning of either of these Journeys would you please speak to either Gayle or Jim Macready.

Gayle Macready, Journey Mentor

URGENT - Please contact Gayle if you would be prepared to be involved in organising the Domestic Inbound Journey from Central Coast in July, 2018.

You won't have to do all the work yourself. There are lots of experienced members who will help.

Inbound Journeys

Mundo Maya, Mexico

24 to 30 November 2017

#13679 HC Judy Hill



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the FFSC members who contributed to a fantastic journey with our friends from Mexico and Costa Rica. We had a most successful journey, and for that thanks are owed to my fantastic committee – Judi & Glen Gordon, Laurel Dixon, Robyn McFarlane and Gayle Macready. We also had a bunch of really excellent hosts and co-hosts who worked as a great team, sometimes at short notice; thank you Brenton & Maggie Ross for stepping in. A very special thanks to Patricia and Tony Barry, who both acted as liaison people, and everyone was very grateful to have Spanish speaking Patricia's assistance.

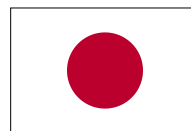
Our program was fairly relaxed, but still took in top, middle, bottom and western areas of our great coast. We ate out a lot, trying to keep our guests in groups big & small so that those who spoke no English could at least converse. I believe a good time was had by all, and their survey forms indicated that – lots of 10/10. One of the highlights was the night at Machu Picchu Restaurant in Maroochy. The Ambassadors treated their hosts to a meal we had negotiated for them and we ate and danced the evening away. We were certainly the last to leave. I think they were trying to close up around us.

Judy Hill

English Language Journey for Japanese Language Ambassadors

10 to 17 September 2018

14297 HC Helen Treston



North Moreton Host Coordinator, Allan Roff, and I are keeping in touch with the Ambassador Coordinator in Hiroshima, who is still recruiting.

Please let me know your ideas for activities around the Sunshine Coast which may enhance the English skills of the ambassadors. We might be able to use these activities in the program.

Helen Treston

Tarapoto, Peru

Late October, 2018

#14037 HC Jenny Allan



We are delighted to have confirmation from the Tarapoto Club President that at least eight ambassadors will be visiting the Sunshine Coast in late October. She indicated that this number may increase prior to the journey. The exact dates are still to be determined.

Jenny Allan



Outbound Journeys

Quebec and North Bay, Canada

11 to 27 June, 2018

#14108 HC Jim Macready



Plans are now well advanced for our journey to Quebec and North Bay, Canada, next June. I am in regular contact with the Host Co-ordinators in Canada, who are looking forward to hosting us. Unfortunately, each club has a limit of fifteen ambassadors and we already have fourteen of our members who have paid their deposit. There are some other couples hoping to join the journey if extra places become available, so no more offers of places are possible.

Those planning to join the journey are busy making travel plans and we are all looking forward to getting to know Canada – particularly the eastern part – well.

Jim Macready

Melbourne

19 to 26 March, 2018

#14338 HC Coral Usher



Melbourne club can host 14. There are only one or maybe two vacancies left

If you are interested visiting Melbourne and participating in this upcoming journey, would please email me to confirm a vacancy.

Coral Usher



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



Social Events



The Christmas lunch has been and gone and despite a much lower attendance this year, a lot of fun and fellowship was enjoyed in good measure.

Our next function is the January meeting, which has traditionally been an occasion where Australia Day is celebrated by our Club. In past years we have gone to Wirreanda Park in Buderim after the general meeting and had an Aussie picnic. This year we are breaking out with what could become a new tradition. The Activities Committee have been exploring the facilities around the Coast, and for a while it looked like Wappa Dam would get the guernsey, but we have found somewhere far better! It is the old foresters barracks at Mapleton – which is now the home of the Mapleton Men's Shed. The Men's Shed have totally renovated the building, while preserving the heritage of the facility, and it is the perfect venue for us. There are some tables and chairs, but, for convenience, the committee suggests we still take our own picnic gear, including tables and chairs, plates and cutlery, and cold drinks. Tea and Coffee are available in the on-site kitchen, and both morning tea of lamingtons, and lunch of corned beef and damper will be provided. Most folk have already paid their \$5, but bring the money along on the day if you haven't already signed up.

Let's make this an old fashioned Aussie Picnic in the bush. See if you can dress in 'What Australia Day means to You' and we'll see how many laughs we get.

The address is Delicia Road, Mapleton. Delicia Road comes off Obi Obi Road in the heart of Mapleton. You can't miss the renovated forester's hut on your right, about a block from the intersection.

10:00am Morning Tea.
10:30am General Meeting
Lunch to follow meeting.

Merrilyn

0488 016 582 jmrundle@bigpond.com

Other Activities

Dine-outs



There won't be a dine-out in December.

Pam Ferguson

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.

Editor

January birthdays



Happy Birthday to:

Margaret Hill & Chris Harman

Next Sunseeker

Please put "Sunseeker" in the subject line and email contributions to Tony Sayer by Friday 19 Jan.

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

Editor

Activities Report to the AGM 2017

Our Friendship Force Club of the Sunshine Coast has clocked up another year. These are the activities we enjoyed together...

In December 2016 we shared a Christmas luncheon at the Sands Tavern in Maroochydore.

After our January meeting we went up to Wirreanda Park as we have traditionally done for years, but this time we celebrated Australia Day with Beefy's Pies.

The month of February had no outing listed in my working journal, which seemed very odd...but that would be because we were hosting the Friendship Force National Conference at the time. Yes indeed, it was one big social activity!

In March we had a dinner and movie night. We went to the Nambour RSL then on to the newly refitted Nambour Majestic theatre to see *Hidden Figures*.

After the March meeting we went to Picnic Point for a BBQ picnic and celebrated 40 years of Friendship Force International with sparklers.

We had another dinner and movie night in April. This time at the Sunshine Plaza. We saw *Going in Style*.

The Picnic Meeting in April was at Marg William's home. We had a shared lunch and competed hard over board games.

In May we sadly joined Tom Breitenbach and his family and friends at the Maroochydore Botanic Gardens where a tree was planted in memory of Joan, who along with Otto and Helen we miss greatly.

Later in the month we went to a *Great Gatsby* show at the Maroochy RSL and then, on what would have been our meeting day but for a hiccup with the regular booking of the hall, we went to see Petula Clark perform live at the Caloundra Events Centre. We had meal before the show.

The June Picnic Meeting was soup and crusty bread at Anne Derksen's home.

The Kempsey Club were with us at the time of our July General Meeting and afterwards we went to the Maroochydore Botanical Gardens for a Subway picnic, followed by Tom's games.

In August we were thrilled by *Cirque Africa* at the Caloundra Events Centre.

The Picnic Meeting was at the Ledwidge's home where we had hamburgers and ice-creams.

September was a quiet month, with many of us away or spending time with grandchildren.

Last month just a few of us ventured out in the rain to enjoy the Queensland Celtic Festival at the Nambour Majestic Theatre; and the Picnic Meeting was held in the Somerset Valley where we had a car rally, did lunch and wine tasting at Woongooroo Winery and stayed overnight at the Woodford Hotel. A wonderful weekend enjoyed by all.

Now here we are at the AGM with 2017 nearly gone, but we look forward to fellowship and fun together again 2018.

In Friendship,

Merrilyn Rundle.

