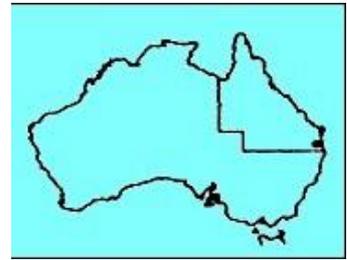




Sunseeker



Volume 36 Number 1 - The Friendship Force of the Sunshine Coast Inc. – January 2025.

A world of friends is a world of peace.

President: Jeff Gunns

Vice-President: Karen Nishimura

Secretary: Ron Usher

Treasurer: John Paine

Journey Mentor: David Allan

Editor: Sonia Mellors

FF International website:
www.thefriendshipforce.org

FF Sunshine Coast Website:
www.friendshipforcesunshinecoast.org.au

FF Australia Website:
friendshipforce-aussie.org

FF Sunshine Coast email:
info@ffsunshinecoast.org.au

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 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 Meet-up
10 th Feb, 10 th March, 14 th April.	26 th January, 23 rd March, 25 th May.	21 st March. TBC dates for April, June, August & October.

Dates For Your Diary

26th January 2025 (Sun)	Australia Day 2025 @ Mapleton Men's Shed, 52 Delicia Rd, Mapleton. Cost - \$15.00. Monies to be paid on the day. Cost to be taken out of monies. \$5.00 cost for general meeting. Please bring a total of \$20.00 pp for the day.
1st February (Sat)	First Planning meeting for West Tokyo at Gillian Brown's 10.00am. RSVP to Gillian please.
23rd March (Sun)	General Meeting Mudjimba Community Hall, 41 Cottonwood Street, Mudjimba.

General Meetings 2025

26th Jan, 23rd Mar,
25th May, 27th July,
28th Sept, 23rd Nov

Board Meetings 2025

10th Feb, 10th March, 14th
April, 12th May, 9th June, 14th
July, 11th Aug, 8th Sept, 13th Oct,
10th Nov.

President's Musings

First of all, let me begin by wishing you all a very Happy New Year! I look forward to working with you in this new role as your President.

As we step into a new year, it's pretty much like turning the first page of a new blank notebook, waiting to be scribbled with new learnings.

This year offers a new chapter where we can fill each page with new experiences, new learnings, and new memories. The start of the year is always a good time to reflect on our goals. I want to share a quote by Albert Einstein: "Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value."

I like that quote because it reminds me, again, that with all of us doing our own little thing, we really do achieve success. We are one big team and we all rely on each other one way or another.

When I think about the men and women in this Club that are committed to the ideals that we are all committed to, I have to say thank you and to our outgoing President, Jane Paine.

We have several Journeys already lined up over the next year. First, Cape Town South Africa and Iringa Tanzania in May, and two International Inbounds, Western Tokyo (English Language Journey) and FF National Capital Area, USA. Our two Domestic Journeys, one Inbound from FF Kempsey NSW and Outbound to Melbourne.

It will be our aim over the next year to increase our membership, extending our reach through different platforms.

In short, we have a busy year planned. It will be through the effort of all members working together that I am sure we will do all that we set out to achieve. For my part, I hope I can bring the same distinguished service to my new role as my predecessors before me. I would like to thank you all once again for considering me worthy of such an honorable position.

It would be remiss of me not to include this one last note from Friendship Force International: It is with profound sadness that FFI announces the death of President Carter. Former U.S. President and Nobel Peace Prize winner, Jimmy Carter, passed away on December 29th, at his home in Plains, Georgia.

On March 1st, 1977, the newly inaugurated President Carter, in support of his long-time friend, Friendship Force founder Wayne Smith (seen with the Carters in the main photo), formally introduced Friendship Force at a White House gathering of State Governors.

The two men could not have known how much this decision and the vision behind it would impact world communities in the next 45 years. What began as an experiment has become a global phenomenon.

À la prochaine,

Jeff Gunns

President FFSC Sunshine Coast

Friendship Force International Website.
Creating Friendships around the Globe.

<https://friendshipforce.org/>



Journey Mentor's Report

2025 INTERNATIONAL JOURNEYS

25055FF SC to Cape Town and Iringa Ambassador Coordinators Liz Brown, Jeff Gunns

Meeting on 17 January for update on progress with both journeys. Ambassador and Matching Forms have been received from Iringa.

#25061 National Capitol Area to SC Host Coordinator: Cherie Amos

Contacted Ambassador Coordinator. Planning committee to be formed.

NCA ambassadors will fly into Sydney, travel to and then may have a few gap days before coming to the Sunshine Coast. If they come directly to the Sunshine Coast without holding gap days the FFSC journey dates will be 23 to 30 October. Should they have gap days after Newcastle NCA journey dates may be 25 October to 1 November. (7 nights)
Sunshine Coast dates to be confirmed.

25034 FF Western Tokyo (English Language Journey) Host Coordinator: Gillian Brown

Journey dates Tuesday 2nd September to Sunday 9th September.

2025 DOMESTIC JOURNEYS

25283 FF Kempsey to FF SC. Wanted: Host Coordinator.

Journey Dates Thursday 19th June to Thursday 26th June (7 nights)

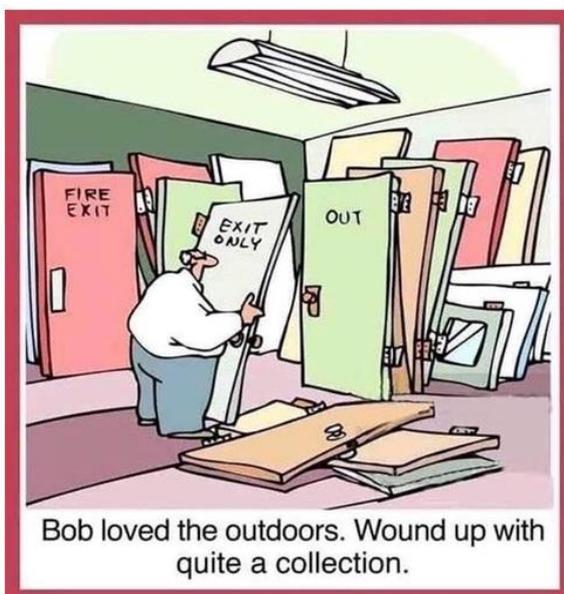
Issue: 10 members will be on journeys from late April to end of May.

Need a host coordinator (preferably a member who has not been an HC) and a planning committee.

25287 FF Sunshine Coast to FF Greater Melbourne Ambassador Coordinator: Jim Catt.

Journey dates Wednesday 12 th November to Wednesday 19 th November.(7 nights).

David Allan
Journey Mentor



**I got myself a seniors' GPS.
Not only does it tell me how
to get to my destination;
it tells me why I wanted to
go there.**

Treasurer's Report –

Nothing to report.

J Paine
Treasurer

Member Anniversaries

For January – **Sheena McDonald** 2 years.
Olivia Markham 1 year.

SUNSEEKER. sunseekerffc@gmail.com

Do you have something that YOU would like to add to Sunseeker.
Please email it through to sunseekerffc@gmail.com and it will be added to the next edition of the Sunseeker.

I'm aiming to acknowledge everyone when I receive information for Sunseeker, if you haven't received a reply from me within a few days, please feel free to contact me.

Yours in Friendship,
Sonia

MERCHANDISE

Bill Law's Club Shirt 3XL has been handed to the Club for Sale.

The policy is to offer pre-loved shirts at 1/2 Retail Price which would now be \$35.00. If you need a Club Shirt and this one will fit please let me know. The funds go directly to the Club.

Judi Gordon (0401051136)

From Olivia Markham. I'm looking for a granny flat or long-term housesitting in Maleny/Mapleton hinterland. The place that I'm currently in is for sale and I need to move out of the granny flat.



Something to make you smile or laugh.



- *Why is grass so dangerous? Because it's full of blades!*
- *I went to the aquarium this weekend, but I didn't stay long. There's something fishy about that place.*
- *I decided to sell my vacuum cleaner. It was just gathering dust!!*

Social activities Report for January 2025.



HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025. WOOHOO LET THE FUN BEGIN!!!

NOTES OF INTEREST

I hope this helps with everyone's social calendars. But please note, this is not rigid and depends upon what else is happening within the club, such as journeys inbound and outbound, availability of venues etc.

General Meetings - 4th Sunday bimonthly starting in January (Jan, March, May, July, September, October)

AGM – 4th Sunday in November

Dine-outs – monthly (stated below)

Picnic meetups - (end of the month) bimonthly starting in February (Feb, April, June, August, October)

Christmas Party - early December

UPCOMING EVENT

AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATIONS –

- Mapleton Men's Shed
- Sunday 26th Jan @ 9.30am

An email was sent to all club members on 16.1.25 with details. Friendship, food, games and wearing your most unique costume is the order of the day. See you there. **REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR PLATES, CUTLERY AND CUPS PLEASE.**

DINE-OUTS

Our social club committee has decided that due to some people being unable to attend the dine-outs on the second Thursday of each month, we will be alternating Wednesdays and Thursdays starting Thursday, 13th February.

UPCOMING DINE-OUTS

This month we will be meeting Thursday, 13th February at 12 noon. There will be a sign on sheet at Australia Day celebrations OR please contact Wendy Gunns know that you will be attending.

- Peppermint Crescent
Taiwanese and Japanese Restaurant
Shop 5/63 Karawatha Street, Buderim

DATE CLAIMER

HARMONY WEEK – 17th – 23rd March 2025



Harmony Week is the celebration that recognises our diversity and brings together Australians from all different backgrounds. Disappointingly there currently aren't any events organised on the Sunshine Coast for Harmony week.

With flexibility in mind, we will be changing our February picnic meetup to Harmony Day on Friday 21March. We will meet for a **potluck international lunch at 11 am at**

- **Buderim Village Park, 5 Church Street Buderim**

Followed by a **light-hearted international games event**. Possibly including:

- Pétanque (France) – like Boules
- Woch (Haiti) – like marbles
- Achi (Ghana) – like tic-tac-toe but more complex
- Chinese checkers (originally from Germany)
- Gonggi (Korea) – like a western game of Jacks
-

To spread the message of peace and harmony around, family and friends are very welcome to come along. More the merrier. Some specifics will be finalised prior to the event.

If you are looking for an additional event in February, immerse yourself in the magic of the Chinese lantern festival at Aussie World on Saturday 8.2.25 starting at 5 pm. Cost \$11. (click this link for details <https://www.facebook.com/SCchineseassociation>).

Yours in friendship

Gillian Brown

Social Activities Coordinator

CAPE TOWN JOURNEY REPORT 2025

As yet no matching forms or program details have been forwarded from the FF Cape Town club.

Unfortunately Ethel, the appointed Host Coordinator can no longer continue in this role and until such time as another coordinator might be appointed, Florence the club President will be the point of contact. As yet they have not had an initial General Meeting for 2025 but when this takes place, we hope for some updates regarding hosting and program details as well as costings for the activities. I

only recently heard from Florence that the Journey will be a day short of the timeframe we were given, so instead of our journey being for 7 days - April 30th till May 7th, the journey now ends on May 6th, which has meant we need to book overnight accommodation in Cape Town on the 6th at the same hotel that we booked on 7th May for our flight to Johannesburg the next day, then onwards to Victoria Falls (one of the 7 Wonders of the World).

At a meeting just this Friday (January 17th) we have all checked that we are booked on the same flights and into the same accommodation after our stay with Cape Town FF, as we are doing a safari before we go to Iringa, Tanzania for the second phase of our African Journey. Other issues discussed were the Double Entry Visa required for the 7 day Safari from the Falls to Chobe National Park, what currency we will need to take and what vaccinations will be necessary. We will meet again in a few weeks time when hopefully we will know who our hosts will be in Cape Town and what interesting places they have planned for us on their program.

Liz Brown

Cleaning of the Hall.

Please note that we have been officially reprimanded for breaching our hire agreement in particular the "Cleaning Terms and Conditions".

It is mandatory that each hirer vacuums and mops after their hire.

Thus, it is our responsibility to ensure we adhere to the "leave it as you find it" policy.

We have made a commitment to follow the process of 'leave it as you find it' This means we must, after every meeting:

- = Vacuum the floor paying particular attention to the entrance/ exit areas
- = Use spray mop in kitchen area
- = Use broom to access all other areas and use vacuum to clear
- = Men to clean Male toilets
- = Women to clean Female toilets
- = Ensure all windows are closed and blinds drawn
- = Ensure all tables and chairs are tidily put away. **TO AVOID DAMAGE DO NOT DRAG CHAIRS OR TABLES ACROSS FLOOR**

This task of cleaning up is not onerous at all, especially if everyone pitches in. However, it is acknowledged there will be absences from some meetings.



**MANY
HANDS
Make
LIGHT
Work**



A Tibetan proverb: "The secret to living well and longer is: eat half, walk double, laugh triple, and love without measure."



President Jeff



VP Karen



Secretary Ron



Treasurer John P

**FFSC BOARD
2025**



Journey Mentor David

The Army of Helpers who keep the club running in 2025

Function	Coordinator	Team
Dine-outs	Wendy Gunns	Kerry McClenaghan
Facebook	Liz Brown	
Flags and Banners	Glen Gordon	John Paine
Greeters	Jo Mutz	Judi Gordon, Helga Descy
Lucky Door	Sheena McDonald	Rena Cook
Membership	Jenny Allan & Gillian Gosney	
Merchandise	Judi Gordon	
Morning Teas	Liz Brown	Kerry Cook, Wendy Gunns
Publicity	Merrilyn Rundle	Jenny Allan (Support Person)
Social Activities & lunches after general meetings	Gillian Brown	Coral Usher, Merrilyn Rundle and Wendy Gunns
Sunseeker Editor	Sonia Mellors	Mike McFarlane
Web updates & Database	Mike McFarlane	Jim Catt and Sonia Mellors
Multicultural Coordinator	Karen Nishimura	Mike McFarlane