



Volume 37 Number 1 - The Friendship Force of the Sunshine Coast Inc. – January 2026.

A world of friends is a world of peace.

President: Jeff Gunns

Vice-President: Jim Catt

Secretary: Liz Brown

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
9 th Feb, 9 th March, 13 th April, 11 th May, 8 th June, 13 th July, 10 th Aug, 14 th Sept, 12 th Oct and 9 th Nov.	25 th Jan, 22 nd March, 24 th May, 26 th July, 27 th Sept and 22 nd Nov (+AGM).	N/A.

Dates For Your Diary

25th January 2026 (Sun)	Australia Day 2026 @ Mapleton Men's Shed, 52 Delicia Rd, Mapleton. Cost - \$15.00 per person. Monies to be paid on the day. (Cost to be taken out of monies. \$10.00 for BBQ lunch and \$5.00 cost for general meeting).
12th Feb (Thurs)	Dine Out – Details to follow shortly.
27th Feb to 2nd March	Journey #26239 - Brasília, Brazil to Taupo and Manawatu/Whanganui, New Zealand and Sunshine Coast.
22nd March (Sun)	General Meeting Mudjimba Community Hall, 41 Cottonwood Street, Mudjimba.

General Meetings 2025

25th Jan, 22nd March, 24th May,
26th July, 27th Sept and 22nd
Nov (+AGM).

Board Meetings 2025

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

President's Musings

And suddenly, here we are in 2026.

Happy New Year! The New Year is a time of joy, celebration, and new beginnings. Across the world, people welcome it with enthusiasm, hope, and happiness—a chance to pause, reflect on the year that has passed, and look forward to what lies ahead.

Celebrated on January 1st under the Gregorian calendar, the New Year reminds us that no matter how challenging the previous year may have been, we are always given the opportunity to begin again. Many choose this time to set new intentions—to be kinder, to learn more, to grow personally and collectively—and to approach life with renewed purpose.

As we step into this year, let's adopt a mindset of growth and positivity, turning every challenge into an opportunity for success. The year ahead holds endless possibilities: new adventures, fresh goals, meaningful connections, and memories yet to be made. It is a chance to learn new things, strengthen friendships, and continue growing together.

I sincerely hope that 2026 brings you happiness, good health, and success. Let's fill it with kindness, laughter, and hard work. Let's make the most of every day and allow each challenge to help us shine.

I want to express my heartfelt thanks for your hard work, creativity, and commitment. Your dedication has been invaluable to our success, and I am truly grateful for all that you contribute. I am excited about what we will achieve together in the year ahead.

Here's to a new year of teamwork, trust, and shared growth. May we continue to support and inspire one another as we move forward with optimism and purpose.

"There are better things ahead than any we leave behind."

— C.S. Lewis

In Friendship,
Jeff Gunns.



Journey Mentor's Report

2026 INTERNATIONAL JOURNEYS

Journey #26239 - Brasília, Brazil to Taupo and Manawatu/Whanganui, New Zealand and Sunshine Coast, Australia.

Journey Dates: From February 27th to March 2nd (3 nights, Ambassadors depart March 2nd).

Host Coordinator: John Paine.

Ambassadors: 8 females.

#26245 Hamburg Ev and Varel Germany to Sunshine Coast and Newcastle: Host Coordinator Jeff Gunns

Journey dates are from Friday 1st May to Friday 8th May. (7 nights)

Hamburg and Varel have agreed to have three days in Brisbane before arriving on the Coast.

Next Meeting: TBD

26248 Shelby USA to Sunshine Coast and Perth: Host Coordinator NEEDED

The Perth club would like to have Shelby visit them at the beginning of September as they have their 25th Anniversary set for the 3rd October 2026 and would like a little breathing space between the two events.

If it suits Shelby FF, we could then allow Shelby a couple of days to travel to us so that we would host them from 10th - 17th September (7 nights). However, it is possible that they may want to travel directly from Perth to the Sunshine Coast on the same day which means our hosting will be 8th – 15th September.

Waiting on FF Perth to respond about these dates. Contact: Last contact from Shelby 29/12/2025.

Host Coordinator NEEDED

26262 FF Sunshine Coast to FF Brasilia, Brazil and to Xalapa Mexico

Journey dates: Brasilia from Wednesday October 21 and end on Wednesday October 28 (7 nights).

Ambassador Coordinator for Brasilia: John Pane

Journey dates: Xalapa From October 31 to November 5 or 6 (John to confirm number of journey nights).

Ambassador Coordinator: John Brown

2026 DOMESTIC JOURNEYS

#26404 Sunshine Coast to Adelaide: Ambassador Coordinator NEEDED

Sent email to Adelaide President asking if the dates to Adelaide from 15 to 22 May would be suitable to their members.

Waiting on Adelaide to respond.

#26397 Blue Mountains to Sunshine Coast: Host Coordinator NEEDED

Journey dates: Blue Mountains to the SC from 5 August to 12 August (7 nights).

Journey Mentor,
David Allan

MERCHANDISE

I have 3 Club Shirts which have been passed back to the Club for sale.

2 Men's 1xM and 1xL. 1 Ladies size 12.

These are sold to members for \$35 which is 1/2 price of new shirts

I will have them at the meeting so just see me there. If this would be suitable for you please see me at the meeting or email.

In Friendship, Judi Gordon

Social activities Report for JANUARY 2026.



Hi Everyone

Welcome to 2026. Let the fun begin.

SPECIAL EVENTS

AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATIONS

Get ready for our annual bash where we come dressed in our best Australian outfit and vie for gold, silver and bronze medals in the Annual Thong Throwing Competition. Will Mr Jeff Gunns hold his championship title or will some up and coming competitor steal the medal? This year the tennis ball romp is being inaugurated. New medals have been purchased. The winners may proudly keep them until the following general meeting.

Sunday 25th January @ 9.30 am

Mapleton Men's Shed

52 Delicia Rd Mapleton

\$10 BBQ lunch fee and \$5 meeting fee = \$15 (Please bring correct cash. If you need to pay by card please transfer the money into the general account prior to the event.)

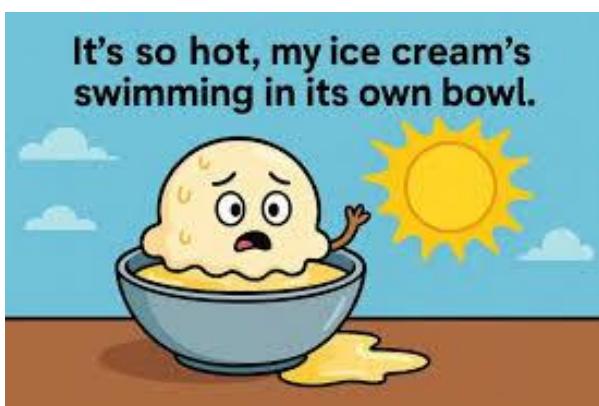
Please bring plates, cutlery, cups etc

**FOR CATERING PURPOSES, PLEASE COMPLETE THE EMAILED FORM BY 17TH JANUARY.
PLEASE NOTE: COMPLETE ONE FORM FOR EACH PERSON ATTENDING. DO NOT ADD 2 PERSONS ON ONE FORM. THANKS KINDLY.**

Yours in friendship

Gillian Brown

Social Activities Coordinator



Dine Outs 2026

Once again this year, we will be dining out on alternate second Wednesdays and/or Thursdays so all members have a chance of dining with FFSC.

Here are the dates for 2026:

- *Thursday, 12th February
- *Wednesday, 11th March
- *Thursday, 9th April
- *None in May due to incoming and outgoing journeys
- *Wednesday, 19th June
- *Thursday, 9th July
- *None in August due to incoming journey
- *Wednesday, 9th September
- *Thursday, 8th October
- *Thursday 12th November due to Remembrance Day
- *December, none

Looking forward to seeing as many as possible members throughout the year.
Please wear your Club shirts when attending.

Yours in friendship,
Wendy Gunns

Resolutions from the Board in 2025.

The Board has agreed that members can either purchase shirts as per current procedure OR, they purchase a shirt in the same colour teal, and have it embroidered at Fully Promotional with the Club logo.

Member Anniversaries

For January – Merrilyn Rundle – 18 years.
Mike and Robyn McFarlane -11 years.
John and Jane Paine – 5 years.
Gillian Brown – 5 years.

SUNSEEKER. sunseekerffsc@gmail.com

Do you have something that YOU would like to add to Sunseeker.
Please email it through to sunseekerffsc@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

The Army of Helpers who will keep the club running in 2026

FUNCTION	COORDINATOR	ASSISTING TEAM
Dine – Outs	Wendy Gunns	
Facebook	Liz Brown	
Flags & Banners	Glen Gordon	
Greeters	John & Gillian Gosney	Helga Drescy, Jo Mutz
Lucky Door	Cherie Amo	Jane Paine
Membership	Jenny Allan Gillian Gosney	
Merchandise	Judy Gordon	
Morning Teas	Cherie Amos	Elayne Martin, Kerry Cooke
Publicity	Merrilyn Rundle	Claude Boulenaz
Social Activities & Post meeting Lunches	Gillian Brown	Coral & Ron Usher
Sunseeker Editor	Sonia Mellors	Jim Catt
Online Websites & Databases	Mike McFarlane	Sonia Mellors
Multicultural	Claude Boulenaz	
Grants	Jeff Gunns	

**If you are interested in assisting in one of the above categories, please add your name
at the General Meeting on Australia Day or advise Jeff Gunns.**



More hands make light work.

We are a Club where we need everyone to do just a little to help out.

Otherwise, we will not be able to operate.



President Jeff



Vice President Jim



Secretary Liz



Treasurer John P

FFSC BOARD 2026



Journey Mentor David

The Army of Helpers who keep the club running in 2026

Function	Coordinator	Team
Dine-outs	Wendy Gunns	
Facebook	Liz Brown	
Flags and Banners	Glen Gordon	
Greeters	John & Gillian Gosney	Helga Drescy, Jo Mutz
Lucky Door	Cherie Amos	Jane Paine
Membership	Jenny Allan & Gillian Gosney	
Merchandise	Judy Gordon	
Morning Teas	Cherie Amos	Elayne Martin, Kerry Cooke
Publicity	Merrilyn Rundle	Claude Boulenaz
Social Activities & lunches after general meetings	Gillian Brown	Coral & Ron Usher
Sunseeker Editor	Sonia Mellors	Jim Catt
Web updates & Database	Mike McFarlane	Sonia Mellors
Multicultural Coordinator	Claude Boulenaz	
Grants	Jeff Gunns	

FFSC CHRISTMAS PARTY BREAKUP 2025.



