



Sunseeker



Volume 37 Number 8 - The Friendship Force of the Sunshine Coast Inc. – August 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
21st Sept, 12 th Oct and 9 th Nov.	27 th Sept and 22 nd Nov (+AGM).	24 th Oct

Dates For Your Diary

11 th Sept – 17 th Sept	Inbound Shelby, North Carolina. Host Coordinator- Cherie Amos
19 th – 22 nd Oct	National Conference, Canberra.
21 st Oct – 28 th Oct	Outbound Sunshine Coast FF to FF Brasilia, Brazil. Host Coordinator- John Paine.
31 st Oct – 7 th Nov	Outbound Sunshine Coast FF to FF Xalapa Mexico. Host Coordinator- John Brown.
8 th Dec (Tues)	FFSC Christmas Party @ Twin Waters Golf Club.

General Meetings 2026

27th Sept and 22nd Nov
(+AGM).

Board Meetings 2026

21st Sept, 12th Oct and 9th Nov.

President's Musings

What a fabulous week of fellowship, friendship and fun we enjoyed with our Blue Mountains friends during their recent Inbound Journey. It was wonderful to see everyone getting involved and making the most of the opportunity to share our beautiful Sunshine Coast with our visitors.

I particularly hope that our newer members had the opportunity to experience, first-hand, the joy of hosting and participating in a Friendship Force Journey. There really isn't anything quite like it. The friendships, the shared experiences and the opportunity to learn about one another's lives and communities are what makes Friendship Force so special.

And now, with Shelby, North Carolina, USA arriving very soon, I encourage everyone to get involved and participate in as many of the activities as possible. Whether you are hosting, co-hosting, helping with an activity, joining us for a meal, or simply spending some time with our visitors, your involvement will help make their Journey a memorable one.

It will also be a wonderful opportunity for all of us to learn a little more about life in North Carolina and to share stories, experiences and, no doubt, plenty of laughs along the way.

I look forward to seeing many of you enjoying another great week of Friendship Force fellowship, friendship and fun!

Finally, on a personal note, I would like to thank everyone for the many kind words, messages and support you have given me during my recovery from surgery. I still have a fair way to go, but knowing that I have such wonderful friends and fellow members behind me certainly helps to keep me going. Your kindness and encouragement are very much appreciated.

Y'all take care now, and until we meet again!

Jeff Gunns

President
Friendship Force Sunshine Coast



Journey Mentor's Report

2026 INTERNATIONAL JOURNEYS

26248 Shelby USA to Sunshine Coast and Perth: Host Coordinator Cherie Amos

Journey dates for Shelby to Sunshine Coast are from Friday 11th Sept to Thursday 17th (6 nights)

Number of Ambassadors:14

Note: We look forward to meeting the Shelby Ambassadors on 11th September who will travel by bus to the Landsborough Seventh Day Adventist hall for a Welcome lunch.

We need one more dinner host for David and Jenny Allan for this journey.

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 Paine

Number of Ambassadors:10

This journey is well underway and all members are fully prepared.

Journey dates: Xalapa From Saturday October 31 to Saturday November 7 (6 nights)

Ambassador Coordinator: John Brown

Number of Ambassadors:10

This journey is well underway and all members are fully prepared.

2026 DOMESTIC JOURNEYS

INBOUND JOURNEYS

Note: Planning to host an International journey can take from 10 to 15 months. It involves organising a program of activities, calculating costs, matching hosts and ambassadors, and keeping all members informed.

I am looking for a Host Coordinators for San Antonio. You will form a committee so that the planning is shared. If you will take on this role, please let me know A.S.A.P.

#27184 Lake Simcoe, Ontario, Canada to Sunshine Coast and to Southerland New Zealand

HOST COORDINATOR: Noel Dennett

Journey Date for FF Sunshine Coast April 2027

Thank you, Noel, for taking on this role, encouraged by your recent stay with the Lake Simcoe club.

#27190 San Antonio, Texas, USA to Sunshine Coast and Newcastle - **HOST COORDINATOR WANTED**

Journey date is 5th -12th October 2027

This seems to be a very easy club to work with and we have found the other Texan clubs very hospitable and friendly. We need to get this journey plan started so please let me know if you would nominate to take on this role.

OUTBOUND JOURNEY

#27219 Sunshine Coast Australia to Greater Hamilton and Burlington, Ontario, Canada.

Journey Dates: 27th May to 3rd June 2027.

Ambassador Coordinator: Jenny Allan

Brandan and Area, Manitoba, Canada

Journey dates: 7th June – 14th June 2027

Ambassador Coordinator: Liz Brown

2027 DOMESTIC JOURNEYS - inbound and outbound journeys will be organised at a later date.

David Allan
Journey Mentor

Board Resolutions

For the year 2027, the Board has proposed not to charge members the Club fee of \$30. The Board feels the Club is in a strong financial position to fund the club expenses for the year 2027.

Member Anniversaries

For August – Glen and Judi Gordon – 28 years.

Treasurers Report - July 2026

Treasurers Report - July 2026

Income	
Donation	20.00
IBD Interest	74.25
Surplus Inbound Jny	358.31
Meeting Fees	110.00

Total \$562.56

Expenditure	
Web Site	1900.00
Hall Hire	127.50
FFI Fee	322.00
Advertising	242.00
Morning Tea Expenses	123.74

Total \$2715.24

Deficit (\$2152.68)

EQUITY \$11229.12

J Paine
Treasurer

**WHAT IS THE WORST TYPE OF
WEATHER TO HIRE FOR A JOB?**



**LIGHTNING, BECAUSE IT'S
ALWAYS ON STRIKE!**

the
**BENEFITS OF DRINKING
COFFEE**



Social activities Report for AUGUST 2026.



Hi Everyone

I mentioned at the General meeting that I would be passing over the job of Social Club coordinator in November. With hindsight I have decided to continue HOWEVER I WOULD LIKE A MEMBER TO JOIN ME AND WORK TOGETHER SO THE FOLLOWING YEAR THAT MEMBER COULD TAKE OVER THE ROLE. PLEASE LET ME KNOW YOUR INTEREST. Working together will bring in fresh ideas.

From September to November Coral will be co-ordinating Social Club as I am finally going for a trip of a lifetime to South America. *Yippee yahoo*. Can't wait.

Thanks to everyone for making International Friendship Day a relaxed gathering of friends sharing food and games. Its these sorts of days that make me believe that *"Together, we can create a world where friendship and mutual respect pave the way for a better future"*. This continued throughout the Blue Mountains Journey where we ventured to historic Fish Lane in Brisbane, played games on the beach at Kawana, became kangaroos, cockroaches and cane toads in Mudjimba, panned for Gold in Gympie and luxuriated in Rolls Royce's in Cooloom. In the words of Randy Newman, we embraced "You've got a friend in me".

Let's keep the ball rolling with the following activities.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

1. SHELBY JOURNEY

This is our last inbound journey for the year and again offers plenty of chances to connect, share experiences and enjoy great company of our overseas guests. Don't miss out!!!!

2. Picnic meetups

Our last picnic meet-up will be held on **Sunday 24/10 @ 10.00 am at Double Bay Park**, Parrearra beside the Green Zebra and Vrina restaurants.

SPECIAL EVENTS

1. **BOOK NOW OR YOU WILL MISS OUT** on an excellent production.

Calamity Jane (Qld Theatre Co musical) – Caloundra Events Centre (Tickets now on sale).

Group of 6+ \$75 pp. **NOTE NEW TIME – EVENING Saturday 31st October @ 7pm.**

2. Christmas Party

Twin Waters Golf Club - 8th December @ 12 noon. \$55 for a 3-course lunch with welcome drink of beer, wine or soft drink.

Yours in friendship

Gillian Brown

Social Activities Coordinator

Brasilia/ Xalapa journey Report July 2026.

Planning for this leg of the Brasilia/Xalapa journey remains a work in progress. While most recent correspondence has been with the president of FF Xalapa club (Oscar Collins), the WhatsApp messaging service allows for contact with multiple persons who are linked into the connection.

While we have not yet received costings and a summary of planned activities for the 7 day journey including host/ambassador matching, there has been some initiative by at least one member of that club to communicate via email with John & Jane Paine to introduce themselves as the matched hosts for their stay.

It is unclear why this email correspondence has occurred prior to myself as the Ambassador Coordinator receiving a complete list of all the ambassador/host matching form.

A follow up WhatsApp message has been generated seeking clarification on this matter. Meanwhile transport arrangements for travel between Veracruz and Xalapa is being investigated with a local tourist/bus service.

John B (Xalapa Ambassador Coordinator)

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.

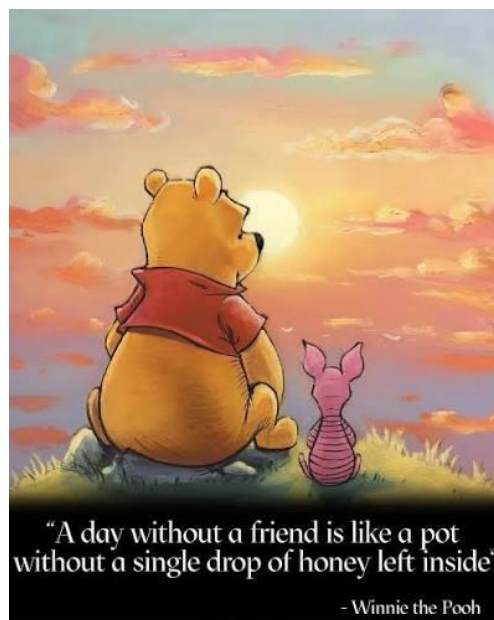
In Friendship, Judi Gordon

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



Dine Outs 2026

Our Monthly Dine Out

Each month we organise a **"Dine Out"** as a relaxed social activity for members. After all, we all need to eat—so why not enjoy a good meal while catching up with friends and getting to know other members a little better?

Our Dine Outs are a wonderful way to spend lunch together in a casual setting. There's no obligation to attend, and each month we try somewhere different—sometimes exploring a new café or restaurant, and other times returning to one of our favourites.

Usually, around 15–20 members come along. Everyone simply orders what they would like from the menu and pays for their own meal, which keeps things easy and relaxed for everyone.

The lunches are always great fun and very enjoyable, with plenty of good conversation and laughter.

As the current Dine Out Coordinator, I'll be announcing the location of each month's Dine Out at our Meetings, where you can add your name to the list if you'd like to join us. I'll also send out reminder emails so everyone stays informed, even if you're unable to attend the meeting. Just let me know if you'd like to come along so I can make sure we book enough seats.

I hope to see you at our next Dine Out!

Wendy Gunns
Dine Out Coordinator

Here are the dates for 2026:

- *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.

Cleaning of the Hall.

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.



Canberra 19th -22nd October 2026

Just as those who attended the Norfolk Island National Conference in 2024 had a very enjoyable time interacting with members from other Cubs around Australia and New Zealand this conference promises similar opportunities. It will be a mix of envisioning Friendship Force in Australia and enjoying social activities in Canberra. It will charge up the batteries through presentations by keynote speakers and well led discussion workshops conducted by members from each of the Australian clubs – the emphasis being on opportunities for all to listen, learn, discuss and be enthused.

The conference will also include a **revamped 'Council of Leaders'** session that will be inclusive of all attendees, rather than comprising 'observers' and Club delegates who vote on formal motions. Instead, the focus will be more inclusive and collegiate – more like a plenary session focussing on a national perspective and maybe/hopefully arriving at resolutions that are inspirational for the next 50 years.

So please be excited and if you can attend, register to assist the planners. One registration of interest for each person please. Register through <https://friendshipforce-aussie.org> The detailed program will be available in April.

Flyer supplied by Mike McFarlane.



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	Jenny Allan
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	

Celebrating World Friendship Day at the July General Meeting.



Blue Mountains Journey.







Sam and Alex, our 2 new members.

