Sunseeker



Volume 37 Number 10 - The Friendship Force of the Sunshine Coast Inc. – October 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**
9th Nov.	22nd Nov (+AGM).	25th Oct

Dates For Your Diary	
19th – 22nd Oct	National Conference, Canberra.
25th Oct (Sun)	FFSC Picnic Meet Up Double Island Park Kawana Island - 10.00am
21st Oct – 28th Oct	Outbound Sunshine Coast FF to FF Brasilia, Brazil. Host Coordinator- John Paine.
31st Oct – 7th Nov	Outbound Sunshine Coast FF to FF Xalapa Mexico. Host Coordinator- John Brown.
12th Nov (Thurs)	Final Dine Out for the Year – Verona. Please contact Wendy Gunns by Monday 9th November if you are attending so the restaurant can be informed of numbers.
22nd Nov (Sun)	AGM – please make a special effort to attend.
8th Dec (Tues)	FFSC Christmas Party @ Twin Waters Golf Club.

General Meetings 2026
22nd Nov (+AGM).

Board Meetings 2026
9th Nov.

President's Musings

As another month rolls around, there is plenty happening within our Friendship Force family!

Firstly, our very best wishes go to our Ambassadors heading off on their Journeys to Brazil and Mexico. I'm sure they will enjoy another fabulous, memorable and rewarding experience, making new friendships and discovering different cultures along the way. We wish you all safe travels, wonderful experiences and, of course, a safe return home with plenty of stories to share with us!

Travel is certainly becoming a little more challenging at the moment. The ongoing conflict in the Middle East is creating uncertainty for international travellers, while closer to home, ever-increasing fuel prices are making domestic travel more expensive too. Let's hope things settle down before too long and we can all continue to enjoy the freedom and pleasure of travelling.

Best wishes also to our members attending the Friendship Force Australian Conference in Canberra. These conferences provide a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with friends from other clubs around the country, make new acquaintances and, importantly, have meaningful discussions about the future direction of Friendship Force. I hope those attending return home with fresh ideas, renewed enthusiasm and plenty of inspiration!

Finally, I want to remind all members, both new and long-standing, that we have several important roles becoming vacant at our next AGM. We are particularly looking for a Co-President to assist me with the administrative side of the role, a Journey Mentor, a Web Database Coordinator, and members willing to join our ever-important *Army of Helpers*.

It's easy to think someone else will step forward, but just like every other club or organisation we belong to, Friendship Force cannot continue to thrive without members willing to contribute their time and talents. Every little bit helps, and you don't need to take on a major role to make a real difference.

I'm reminded of a poem by Charles Osgood that sums up this situation beautifully:

There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody couldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have.

It's a humorous way of highlighting a very real problem! We all enjoy the friendships, activities and opportunities that Friendship Force brings into our lives, but for our club to continue to thrive, we need people willing to step forward and lend a hand.

Please don't assume Somebody else will do it. That Somebody could be you! You don't need to do everything, and you certainly won't be doing it alone. Every contribution, big or small, helps keep our wonderful club moving forward.

Let's work together to ensure our Friendship Force Sunshine Coast family continues to flourish for many years to come!

Jeff Gunns
President
Friendship Force Sunshine Coast

Journey Mentor's Report

2026 INTERNATIONAL JOURNEYS

 # 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 nearing 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.

2027 INTERNATIONAL JOURNEYS

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.*

#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 – Jeff Gunns
Journey date is 5th -12th October 2027
Thank you Jeff for taking on this role of coordinator.

OUTBOUND JOURNEYS

#27219 Sunshine Coast Australia to Greater Hamilton and Burlington, Ontario, Canada.
Journey Dates: 27th May to 3rd June 2027. Number of Ambassadors: 12
Ambassador Coordinator: Jenny Allan

Brandan and Area, Manitoba, Canada
Journey dates: 7th June – 14th June 2027. Number of Ambassadors: 12-17.
Ambassador Coordinator: Liz Brown
Thank you, Jenny and Liz, for working together on this two-phase journey to Canada.

2027 DOMESTIC JOURNEYS - inbound and outbound journeys will be organized after the General Meeting

David Allan
Journey Mentor

The only way to have a friend is to be one.
— Ralph Waldo Emerson

Member Anniversaries

For October – Jim and Gayle Macready – 23 years.

Treasurers Report - September 2026

Treasurers Report - September 2026

Income		
Donation		100.00
IBD Interest		78.35
Meeting Fees		140.00
Merchandise Sales		42.09
	Total	$360.44
Expenses		
Hall Hire		90.00
Purchase Badges		68.75
Equipment Maint		9.00
Morning Tea Expenses		18.40
New Banner		269.50
Web Costs		768.00
	Total	$23.65
	DEFICIT	$863.21

EQUITY $10851.50

J Paine
Treasurer

POSITIONS FOR FFSC 2026

FROM JEFF GUNNS.

I'm making a genuine plea to our members to step up and consider volunteering for one of the roles we need to fill for next year.
We need a new Journey Mentor, a Co-President to share the administrative side of the club with me, and a new Dine-Out Coordinator to take over from Wendy after her two years in the role.
The Co-President role is primarily administrative – no public speaking or speech writing required! I'll continue to take care of that.
I know everyone is busy, and volunteering can sometimes feel like one more thing to add to the list. But our club only continues to thrive because members are willing to step up and have a go.
If you'd like to know more about what's involved, please talk to me or any current Board member. We'd really appreciate your help.

FROM DAVID ALLAN.

I will be standing down from my position as Journey Mentor at the Annual General Meeting in November and would be very happy to guide and support any member who would accept this position for the club.

FROM GILLIAN BROWN.

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.

Board Resolutions

After much discussion; It was resolved that for the Financial Year, ending 30th September 2027 that the Membership Fee for Friendship Force Sunshine Coast will be $1.00 per member.

Proposed Membership Fee for 2026–2027

The Board's Resolution regarding the membership fee for the financial year ending 30 September 2027 will be presented for discussion and consideration at the next General Meeting on 22 November 2026.

If the Resolution is approved by the members present at that meeting, the following will apply:

The membership fee for all Friendship Force Sunshine Coast members for the financial year ending 30 September 2027 will be $1.00 per member, effective from 1 October 2026.

Every member will be required to pay this fee, which can be paid by either of the following methods:

1. Direct Credit

BSB: 084-484

Account Number: 13 949 2361

Name: FFSC General Account

Reference: Please use your NAME as the payment reference.

2. Cash Payment

Cash payments can be made at the General Meeting on 22 November 2026.

Members are asked to note that the proposed $1.00 membership fee will only take effect if approved at the General Meeting.



Social activities Report for OCTOBER 2026.



Gillian is away, and thoroughly exploring the continent of South America. For anyone who can see her Facebook posts she is having an amazing experience.

The upcoming activities

The last **Picnic Meet-up for 2026**, is on **25th October at 10am**, Morning tea/coffee at **Double Bay Park Parrearra** (near the Vrina & Green Zebra Restaurants).

Please wear club shirts, to encourage passers-by to enquire 'who are these fun people?'

Special event

Calamity Jane at the Caloundra Events Centre, has 9 attending dinner and evening show on 31st October. Some have booked for the matinee.

If you would like to join us for the evening performance, book your seats independently and let Judi Gordon know if also wanting to have dinner at the theatre. She will extend the dinner booking. I have checked the seating availability and there are still some flat and tiered seats.

The AGM meeting is on the 22nd November, Gillian has agreed to continue for the coming year as 'Social Activities Coordinator'. However, she would like an understudy, willing to step into the role for 2028. Anyone who would like to volunteer for this role will have plenty of mentors. Gillian Brown, Coral Usher & Merrilyn Rundle have experience and are willing to support.

The Christmas Lunch is on the 8th December, 12 noon, at Twin Waters Golf Club. $55 for a 3 course lunch & a welcome drink. Menu choices to pre-book, will be available in November, on Gillians's return. Payment of $55pp can be made into the General Account 139492361 with your name and CL (Christmas Lunch)

Coral

Acting Social Activities 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

Our final dine-out for this year is to be held at
VERONA **AWARD WINNING ITALIAN RESTAURANT SUNSHINE COAWARD WINNING ITALIAN RESTAURANT SUNSHINE COAST**
8 The Avenue, Birtinya

Thursday, 12th November at 12 noon.

Please let me know by Monday, 9th November if you are attending. I need to let the restaurant know how many to seat.
Wendy 0432492498
There is a lunch special if you wish. Check the menu on their website, veronabirtinya.com.au

---

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! Please wear your Club shirts when attending.

Wendy Gunns
Dine Out Coordinator

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.

The Army of Helpers who will keep the club running in 2027

FUNCTION	COORDINATOR	ASSISTING TEAM
Dine – Outs	Judi	Carol
Facebook	Liz Brown	
Flags & Banners	Glen	
Greeters	Wendy	Carol
Lucky Door		Jan Paine
Membership		
Merchandise		
Morning Teas	Cherie Amos	Kerry Cooke Merrilyn Rundle
Publicity	Robyn	Jane Paine
Social Activities & Post meeting Lunches		Coral Usher Merrilyn Rundle
Sunseeker Editor	Sonia Mellors	Helen Treston
Online Websites & Databases		Mike
Multicultural		
Grants		

If you are interested in assisting in one of the above categories, please add your name at the General Meeting in November 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.



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	

September dine-out at the Montville Bar and Grill.









Outbound Journey to Brazil and Mexico.

(Santiago (Chile) and Iguazu Falls, Brazil/Argentina)











Outbound Journey to Brazil and Mexico

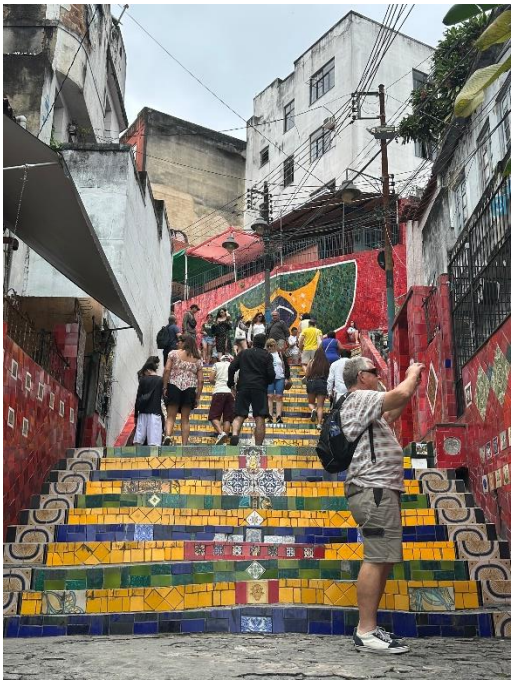
(Iguazu Falls and some of Rio de Janeiro).
















Parq.Nac.Rapa Nui
Parq.Nac.Blue Mountains





Friendship Force Australia National Conference 2026 ‘Into the Next 50 Years’.

From Jenny Allan - David and I, Mike and Robyn McFarlane Represented the Sunshine Coast Friendship Force. Ivy Branson was also there. She is a member of three clubs including ours. Mike gave a presentation about the FFA website. I also gave a presentation about recruiting new members.



