



A quarterly newsletter for club and global members of Friendship Force in New Zealand

SPRING 2022

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Introducing your new NZ Regional Support Manager

Hello members. Most of you know me as I've been with Friendship Force for a number of years in several different roles, most recently as Field Rep Coordinator. My four-year term in that role ended this year and I was looking forward to stepping back from a leadership role and having a rest from it all, but Jeremi Snook, our CEO, had other ideas. So I'm now on the FFI staff and contracted for 8 hours a week to look after New Zealand journeys and help your Field Reps, Jan and Graham, to look after the clubs. I am also on the global membership team led by John Hannah which aims to attract members around the motu who live in areas where there are no clubs. So it'll be a busy time.

My normal working hours will be Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, but I'm always happy to take calls any time if you want to have a chat or have any questions or concerns.

My appointment reflects FFI's commitment to growing Friendship Force in New Zealand, both by strengthening our clubs and by recruiting global members. Covid has had a large impact on our organisation and we need to start rebuilding. I do hope you will join me on this journey.

Nga mihi, Debbie Lattey
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Lakeside Gathering

Over 60 members attended our Lakeside Gathering in August. I was so disappointed to fall ill just before the Gathering which meant I was unable to attend. From all accounts the weekend was a great success and the general feeling amongst those present was of positivity and hope for the future.

I would like to thank the Taupo Club for the great work they did organising this event, especially Colin Ridge and his committee who worked tirelessly to put everything in place for an inspiring weekend of friendship and fun.

Wellington Club is hosting the next Gathering, which will be in the Wellington area in early 2024.



Membership and Journey Fees for 2023 and beyond

As part of FFI's commitment to rebuilding clubs and membership in New Zealand, there will be NO FFI affiliation fees or domestic journey fees payable by members in 2023.

It will be up to individual clubs to decide if they charge a membership fee for 2023 as this will depend on their finances. However it is a great opportunity to make the most of domestic travel and put effort and funds into building membership at the local level.

Board Commitment to redevelopment in NZ

Going into the future, FFI recognises that domestic journeys in NZ are different to those in other parts of the world due to the small distances between most of our clubs. Therefore, as announced at the Gathering, FFI will recategorize NZ as a 'region in redevelopment'. What that means is that FFI will exempt from journey fees all activities relating to team building, member recruitment, training and club development while the country is in redevelopment. So, from 2024 onwards, as long as a domestic journey contains one of these elements, FFI fees will not be charged.

FFI has also committed to investing in a limited national advertising campaign in 2023 through an investment in social media or by a promotion with Radio NZ or similar. Part of our redevelopment is trying to attract global members in areas where there are no clubs, while at the same time promoting the clubs we do have.

I look forward to working with you all and the Field Reps and Global Membership team to start the rebuilding of our clubs and membership in Aotearoa NZ.



It was wonderful to finally be formally presented with my Wayne Smith Medal by Field Rep Graham Wigley and Kapiti Club President Fran Kennedy at a function hosted by Wellington Club and attended by their ambassadors from San Francisco Bay as well as Kapiti club members.

New ways for clubs to operate

Is your club having difficulty finding new Board members? No-one keen to stand as President or fill other roles? It's a problem in many organisations, but you don't have to close the club, there is another way!

With no fees to pay in 2023 there will be little club administration needed other than social events or organising journeys. So how about forming a 'management group' to oversee activities, and do without formal roles for a year or two? You will still need a Treasurer, and someone to send communications around the members, but there's no need to have a formal President or Secretary or to have regular committee meetings or take minutes. Just take an informal approach and meet only when it's necessary to do so, and share responsibilities around those who want to keep the club running. You can also share the organising of social functions amongst your members—just ask them! Christchurch has proved this model can work well.

With a major publicity drive in the wings for next year we ask our clubs to 'hang in there' and keep the fires burning for at least another year while we work on our rebuild. Reach out to your Field Reps or to me if you want to talk through the options .

Can you help with our publicity drive?

If you would like to contribute with ideas or join the team working on the national publicity drive, please let me know—all contributions welcome. We have a limited budget so need ideas on how best to use it.

One thing we will be doing before the end of the year is updating the FFNZ brochure. If you have any good action photos taken during FF journeys I'd love to see them—please email to debbie.lattley@friendshipforce.org.

A World of Friends is a World of Peace

2023 Journeys

Outbound

It's great to see some outbound journeys in the planning stages. If you are interested in any of these journeys, contact the NZ club for more information using the club's email address—see page 6.

- ⇒ Wellington to **Eastern Washington, Northern Idaho & Lower Columbia**, USA, 16-30 June 2023
- ⇒ Northland & Wairarapa to **Mt Gambia & Perth**, Australia, Sept/Oct 2023
- ⇒ Tauranga-WBOP & Christchurch to **Haliburton Highlands & Winnipeg**, Canada, Sept 2023
- ⇒ Hamilton-Waikato to **West Alajuela (Costa Rica), and Napa-Sonoma & Greater Seattle**, USA, Aug/Sept 2023
- ⇒ Taupo to **Southern Sydney & Blue Mountains**, Australia, March 2023

Looking for something different? Check out the global journeys open to all members by clicking on the link to the FFI Journey Catalogue: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Tf2cX72YdZtTgsGjGr-JaafTPMXoGL-WI8G2nuMvIA/edit#slide=id.gc6f90357f_0_5

Inbound

- ⇒ Wellington—hosting Sunshine Coast, Australia, and Charlotte, USA
- ⇒ Northland —hosting Greater Orlando, USA, and Tokyo, Japan
- ⇒ Tauranga-WBOP—hosting Greater Boston, USA, and Cedar Rapids, USA
- ⇒ Hamilton-Waikato—hosting Western North Carolina, USA, and Tamworth, Australia
- ⇒ Christchurch—hosting North Moreton & Brisbane, Australia, and Wisconsin-Madison, USA
- ⇒ Southland—hosting North Moreton & Brisbane, Australia
- ⇒ Manawatu-Whanganui—hosting New Caledonia
- ⇒ Taupo—hosting New Caledonia, Hsinchu, Taiwan, Gold Coast, Australia, and Greater Orlando, USA



ARE YOU READY? *Sydney Here We Come!*

Opportunity to join us for a 15 day Journey, home hosted by real Aussies with Southern Sydney, Blue Mountains and Sydney Friendship Force Clubs.

Commencing
15th March 2023

ESTIMATED COST
\$1400
PLUS OWN AIR TRAVEL

CHANGE THE WAY YOU SEE NSW

To find out more please contact
Colin 378 5088 or
colinjanet123@gmail.com

A world of friends is a world of peace



Advertise your outbound journeys!

Here's a great example of how we can publicise our outbound journeys to attract new members. Taupo club have inserted this advertorial in their local paper. They have also put a display together in the local library. Great work Taupo, let's hope you attract some new members.

Use your inbound journeys to attract new hosts!

Rather than relying on existing club members to host, how about taking the opportunity to promote your inbound journeys in your community by asking for hosts. Your local radio station may have a free community notices spot, and some local papers have one too. Journeys are a great opportunity for recruitment, so make the most of them.

FFI NEWS

World Conference 2023

The 2023 Friendship Force World Conference will be held in the beautiful Coatian city of Dubrovnik, from 2-5 October 2023.

If you're planning to be in Europe next October then do consider registering for the conference, it will be amazing.

Friendraiser videos

Have you been looking at the Friendraiser videos FFI has been sending out? There are some excellent ones there—here are some of the highlights if you've missed them:

- ⇒ Not sure what's on the *my.friendshipforce* website, or why you should sign up to it? Here's a run-through of the site and what it offers (8 mins) <https://vimeo.com/759847797/9d1ab83bf9>
- ⇒ There's also a helpful video about how to navigate the public FFI website (6 mins) <https://vimeo.com/760258289/d7c79a1152>
- ⇒ Engagement ideas for clubs (Kimberly shares some ideas about keeping your club members engaged in FF even when you're not travelling or hosting journeys. (4 mins) <https://vimeo.com/762360554/4b5e23d4d1>
- ⇒ Finally if you're looking for inspiration, here's a wonderful interview with Kathy Hart of the Sacramento Club, who talks with Jeremi Snook about the success her club has with keeping its members engaged and recruiting new members. It's a must-see (22 mins) <https://vimeo.com/756204631/572ab4251a>

You need to be registered with *my.friendshipforce* to receive these emails, so if you're not yet registered then do it now—just click on this link and sign up: https://my.friendshipforce.org/en/users/sign_in.



GLOBAL MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Global membership is open to anyone in New Zealand who lives in an area without a club, whose club has closed, or who just wants to be part of this new initiative. We have welcomed a number of such members over the past few months.

Our main activity at present is planning the Inbound Global Scenic and Farming Tour.

Inbound Global Scenic & Farming Journey 2023

- This is an opportunity for FF members from across the globe to experience home hosting and a scenic farming tour of our great country. We will be attempting to get media coverage (radio and TV if possible) where some of the ambassadors will be able to share their experiences and do what we can to invite listeners and watchers to contact FFNZ to join and be able to experience the wonderful opportunities that traveling and learning about other cultures and lifestyles are all about. John Hannah is the coordinator for this journey assisted by Debbie Lattey and Alan Milne.
- Good progress has been made with the planning for this journey, which will have a maximum of 30 Ambassadors (we already have more than 40 registrations of interest).
- We have a draft programme agreed and we are working with the six NZ clubs who will each host 10 of the 30 ambassadors for four nights. There will be two home hostings, the first in the upper North Island hosted by Tauranga-WBOP, Northland and Hamilton-Waikato, and the second in the lower North Island hosted by Kapiti, Wellington and Wairarapa..
- Following these home hosting opportunities the ambassadors will cross Cook Straight on the Interislander and then travel by the Coastal Pacific Train to Christchurch where they will commence their scenic / farming experience. Pete Higginbottom has put together for us a very comprehensive 10-day tour including some of the South Island's stunning scenery and farm visits.

John Hannah
Global Membership Coordinator
john@impacttransport.co.nz

“The world is a book, and those who never leave home read only one page”

CLUB NEWS

NORTHLAND

Since formation in February this year with 13 members previously of Whangarei FF (in recess), we now have 30 members. This includes 14 with no previous knowledge of FF, most very much younger than our aging friends. All have joined by direct word-of-mouth personal invitation to attend our monthly inspirational meetings which focus on welcome, relationship-building, fun and interesting input.

TAURANGA-WBOP

We hold a morning tea the first Thursday of every month at Nourish in Te Puna (which is just north of Tauranga) at 10.00am. If any FF members are in our area they are welcome to join us. Last Sunday 12 of us met for lunch and then 10 pin bowling, a lot of laughs but not so successful with the bowling ball!

At the beginning of September we had the Northland Club stay with us after The Gathering. Next year we are hoping to have a return visit to them. On Sunday 27th November we will hold our AGM followed by supper (or dessert).

HAMILTON-WAIKATO

The Hamilton and Waikato Club has been steadily signing up new members with a lot of thanks to go to Jeanette Boswell, our most enthusiastic recruiter. Jeanette has also arranged for two separate groups of Club members to spend close to a week on Great Barrier Island. One group goes in November and the second in December.

This week we celebrated significant birthdays for two club members and had over 40 of our members attend. In late November we will host our first incoming ambassadors since the Covid pandemic started. However the group from Sydney, which started at 16 has progressively reduced until now only 8 people are coming.

Next year will be much busier with incoming groups from Tamworth, Australia and Western North Carolina USA. And we have a draft programme for our major outward Journey. We hope to fly to Vancouver, spend a few days there, then catch the ferry to Seattle and be hosted by the Seattle Friendship Force club. From Seattle we fly to Napa-Sonoma to be hosted by that club and then we fly to Costa Rica. Our first week will be spent on our own time (3 weeks in a row being hosted is quite difficult) and then we will be hosted by the West Alujuela Friendship Force club. At this stage it looks like we may not get enough of our own members to fill this tour so it may be that we will open it to other clubs.

TAUPO

FF Taupo has been actively promoting itself and its journeys. We attracted one new member from the Age Concern Expo in August who is going on the club outbound journey to the Sydney clubs. We are also following up a recent enquiry received through our website, and another through our library display. We are currently running an advertorial to promote our Sydney journey, and there have been 2-3 enquiries from FF members of other clubs for this journey.

MANAWATU-WHANGANUI

Manawatu-Whanganui club is going well. We have our AGM on the 1st November, where we have nominations for all positions. Three new people putting their hands up for Board. We had a promotion in Feilding at a Seniors Expo. Although we had several folk showing interest, so far no new members.

KAPITI

Our club is facing leadership challenges and a declining membership, but a small group of committed members are determined to keep it going with an overseeing committee taking joint responsibility for administering the club. Club functions are well attended and there was an excellent turnout to the recent dinner hosted by Wellington FF which included ambassadors from San Francisco Bay.

WAIRARAPA

The Wairarapa branch of Friendship force continues to thrive. We have two new members since June this year and although we are a small club, we try to be active and inclusive. We have an active social calendar which includes a monthly coffee morning with "an added bonus", for example coffee in a cafe followed by a tour of the pioneer graves by our local historian.

We alternate a cafe visit with the next one at a member's home. Often/usually this is followed by an activity of some sort later in the month, anything from a creative garden day to a visit to a new find in the region. Going forward in 2023, we have a few outbounds and inbounds, we need to balance this with ongoing social events for members who may not travel or host.

WELLINGTON

Wellington has 39 current members, and is in good health with a large committee and all officers willing to stand again. Always looking for coordinators for events!

CHRISTCHURCH

FF Christchurch was unable to appoint a President or Board at its 2021 AGM and resolved to suspend its by-laws and appointed a coordinating committee of three to oversee the club's activities. Financial management has continued with the Treasurer being reappointed. This has resulted in the club maintaining its membership and its activities with a range of social events, successful hosting of an inward journey last month (FF Kempsey, Australia) and in 2023 upcoming inwards journeys from Brisbane-North Moreton in February and Madison-Wisconsin late October. The club's AGM on 27 November will review the interim structure with the aim to return to operating under the by-laws as soon as possible.

SOUTHLAND

The club is looking forward to hosting again in February with a group from Brisbane-North Moreton. Meantime they have been enjoying social times with each other.

Club Email Addresses

Just a reminder that our clubs have dedicated email addresses to make communication easier. Emails to these club addresses are forwarded on to a designated club officer's personal email address for action. Use them when you don't know who in a club to contact. You can also find a downloadable list of Club officers on the FFNZ website in the *My Pages* Section.

christchurch@friendshipforce.org.nz
hamiltonwaikato@friendshipforce.org.nz
kapiticoast@friendshipforce.org.nz
manawatu-whanganui@friendshipforce.org.nz
northland@friendshipforce.org.nz
southland@friendshipforce.org.nz
taupo@friendshipforce.org.nz
taurangawbop@friendshipforce.org.nz
wairarapa@friendshipforce.org.nz
wellington@friendshipforce.org.nz



Have you checked out our FFNZ website recently? You'll find it here: www.friendshipforce.org.nz. I am working on updating the information on the website, but meantime here's how to access the *My Pages* section:

1. Click on the *My Pages* menu option across the top of the screen
2. Type your club email address in the first box (as shown above)
3. Type your password in the second box – the password is Nat10nal (note that the letters i and o are substituted by the numbers 1 and 0)
4. Type the four letters/numbers shown on your screen in the third box (these are randomly generated and will change every time you login – note that an 0 is always a zero).
5. If you are using your home computer, leave selected the option Save my email and password on this computer as this will save you having to login again next time you access the website. Only select the other options if you are using a public computer.
6. Click on the blue Login button.

The downloadable club officer list is available under the *Member List* tab.

Next newsletter

The next FFNZ newsletter will be the summer edition, and will come out in February 2023. Contributions are always welcome, especially positive news and inspiring stories of your journeys and new friendships made.

Please send your stories, photos or items to debbie.lattey@friendshipforce.org.