

The Friendship Force of Wellington Inc.

P. O. Box 22-197, Khandallah, Wellington. New Zealand



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Dear Members,

With our first committee meeting having been held on 21st January the new Friendship Force year is off to a good start. We have an enthusiastic committee and the social team of Sue Walker, Joy McNicoll and Erica Speden will set up a good social calendar. You may have noticed that we have run an advertisement in the local papers, for prospective members to home host. To date we have had 5 enquiries all of which we hope will lead to new membership. Through a printing type error it is anticipated that these adverts will be repeated at no cost so our membership numbers may increase again.

With the Edmonton Exchange starting on the 26th February we would like all those members who are not hosting to participate in some way or another.

Cindy Switzer and David Mazey are the ED's so please volunteer as Day Hosts or Dinner Hosts and give Cindy or David a call.

Bob Walker, Maureen Moloney and myself will be attending conference in Blenheim in February and we will report to you at our next meeting.

For the 2010 exchange, while our application is late we have requested a Pacific region exchange i.e. Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam, Northern Australia, will keep you posted.

Hope this gorgeous weather continues while Edmonton is here and Wellington lives up to its reputation.

Regards

Graham

We have new vinyl Logo stickers to go over our existing badges. We will be handing these out over the coming months at various activities. Keep an eye out for them.

We would like to go back to sending the Friendship Force Newsletter out electronically with effect from 1 April. This will save the Club money. If your computer cannot handle the electronic version please let Cindy know swazey@clear.net.nz, and she will send your Newsletter out via snail mail.

We have enclosed an Application Form in this Newsletter for your completion. A number of our members circumstances have changed and we would like to have an up to date record of who can host a couple, who can only host a single, who has pets, who has steps etc. etc. Please complete this

Questionnaire and return it to our P O Box No. 22-197, Khandallah, Wellington or hand it to a Committee Member at our Picnic.

2.

A shortened version of the Minutes of the Committee Meeting held Monday 21st January 2009

Present: Graham Wigley (President), Noel Kilmartin, David Mazey, Joy McNicoll, Erica & Ian Speden, Cindy Switzer, Sue & Bob Walker

Apologies: Jeanette Page

Matters Arising:

Badges for new members discussed; Joy to consult Duncan McDonald about procedures, production costs and number required.

Procedures for the introduction of the new FF logo to be discussed and decided.

Graham has stickers with the new logo for attaching to existing badges. These will be distributed at the next meeting.

Inward Exchanges:

Cindy and David reported on the programme for the incoming visit by 22 members from the Edmonton Club, Canada, 26 February to 5 March. An interesting and varied programme is to be published in the next Newsletter.

Noel is beginning arrangements for the exchange of the Saitama Club, Japan, late September/early October, 2009.

Outward Exchanges:

Decision on the South American exchange to be made after the National Conference at Blenheim.

For 2010, the Committee decided that a request be sent to Atlanta seeking an exchange with clubs in Indonesia, Philippines, Darwin (if it has a club) and possibly Vietnam. Our club could also consider finishing with a 3 to 5 day stay at a resort in Queensland.

Discussion indicated the Committee would prefer an exchange with clubs in countries relatively close to NZ, especially in view of the present economic climate and, also, that in 2010 an outward exchange is essential.

Social Committee:

Sue, Joy and Erica to arrange a programme for the year, preferably one event every six weeks with inwards exchanges to be taken into account. A fund raiser for a chosen charity was suggested as an option. Social Committee could also consider a trip within NZ, possibly to the Chatham Islands or to other clubs.

General Business:

The advertisement in the Hutt News of Tuesday, 21 January, and in the Upper Hutt Leader and the Wellingtonian, were considered poor in legibility. David to discuss with the papers about a free second advertisement.

The club's website is being upgraded by David Pyle.

Atlanta to be advised of the "new" committee membership.

Ian to identify the Field Rep in the Club's files and advise Committee members (Allan Brickland is to replace Ken Tarrant, and all clubs are to be advised their reps after the National Conference).

Atlanta wants to know the number of single and double members.

President to look into purchasing some new logos/labels.

A new ringing list is to be arranged, in alphabetic order. The existing ringers are to be contacted about their availability

Graham also reported on arrangements for the new Atlanta Global Exchange Format, as received on 15/01/2009, and on the FFI brochure "On Changing the Way You See the World".

Next Meeting at Graham and Jenny Wigley's, 13 Chilton Grove, Lower Hutt, Monday, 9th March 2009, at 7:30 pm. Any member can come to a Committee Meeting but they cannot vote.

Welfare

A BIG THANK YOU. Claudie Mousouri and Judith Clarke have agreed to act as our Welfare Officers for another year. If you have ever been the recipient of a message from them by way of a phone call or card you will know that their work is very much appreciated. If you know of any members who are not well, had a bereavement, had an accident or are in hospital please let Claudie Mousouri or Judith Clarke know and they will send a card, visit or ring them up. Kate Hector has been unwell, we are thinking of you.



Len and Sally Youlden have tendered their resignation from the Club. Over the years they have made a significant contribution to the Club but recently ill health has forced them to not participate in hosting or joining in any activities. Thank you Sally and Len for all you have done and good luck in the future.

**OUR NEXT SOCIAL ACTIVITY.
PICNIC AT WILLIAMS PARK, DAYS BAY.
Sunday 1st March 2009. 10.30 am to 3.00 pm.**

We will have the Edmonton Exchange Ambassadors with us and we have invited the Kapiti Club to join us as well. The Canadians will probably travel across to Days Bay via the Days Bay Ferry and you are welcome to join them as well. The ferry departs from the Wellington wharf at 10.00 am. Bring your own picnic, a chair to sit on, sunscreen, togs, towels, sunnies and come and join the fun. We will be having some activities during the day.

The picnic site we have got is south from the Duck Pond, enter the Main Gate and head towards the Tennis Courts. We will hang some green balloons up so you know where to go.

We will be celebrating World Friendship Day as well with a cake.

If the weather is wet please ring Joy Turner on 587-0078 or Cindy Switzer on 478-7773 after 8.00 am for a decision on whether we will proceed with the day. An alternative could be to take our visitors to Te Papa or the Maritime Museum.



Sunday 19th April. Kaitoke Regional Park.

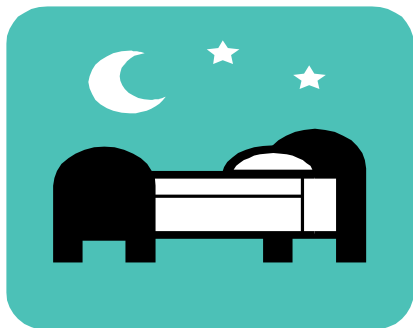
Meet at the Car Park at 1.30 pm for a guided walk around the Park. We will depart on the walk at 1.45 pm. Afternoon tea to follow.

If you can come please let Joy McNicol know on 479-1098 or Sue Walker on 234-6242.

Circa Theatre – Sunday 24th May – 4.00 pm.

We are planning a visit to the Theatre to see Blood Wedding by Federico Garcia Lorca. We could perhaps follow this with a meal in town. More details in the next Newsletter.

If you can come please let Joy McNicol know on 479-1098 or Sue Walker on 234-6242.



Thoughts on Hosting

The bedroom is immaculate! All is colour coordinated, fresh sheets, matching towels, space and hangers in the wardrobe, an empty drawer or two, perhaps even some fresh flowers ... it all looks so attractive.

But, sometimes small things are overlooked. Things such as a mirror in the bedroom, a rubbish receptacle, reading or bedside lamps, a glass for water and all those pills we seem to have to take these days, somewhere to hang damp towels, a flat area free of precious ornaments to place items on (wallet, makeup, papers, teeth) and a chair uncluttered by teddies or dolls and finally room for suitcases / bags, even if in another area.

You may not, of course, be in a position to provide all of these. I have been hosted many times – wonderful, warm, generous, greatly appreciated and enjoyed hospitality – but the provision of some of these little oversights might have added to the convenience.

(Thanks to Sue Harnett, Marlborough FF)

EXCHANGES.

Edmonton, Canada to Wellington & Whangarei, New Zealand and Newcastle, Australia.

Thursday 26th February. The Ambassadors arrive at 4.30 pm at the Johnsonville Community Centre and we will welcome them there with some wine and cheese. Peter Dunne (the local MP) will be joining us. Everyone welcome.

Friday 27th February. We will be meeting at Pataka in Porirua at 10.00 am for a tour around the area visiting Pataka, the Titahi Bay Intermediate School, the beach for a swim or a walk. A picnic lunch is being arranged. If you wish to join us let Cindy know on 478-7773.

Saturday 28th February. This is a free day.

Sunday 1st March. Picnic at Days Bay. Further details already in the Newsletter. Everyone welcome.

Monday 2nd March. Mystery trip to the Wairarapa. If you would like to join the Ambassadors please advise David Mazey on 478-7773 if you wish to come by 23rd February as we will have to book.

Tuesday 3rd March. A Walk around the City and Botanical Gardens visiting numerous places along the way. Meeting at Platform No. 9, Wellington Railway Station at 9.30 am. Everyone welcome. We will be having lunch in Botanical Gardens.

Wednesday 4th March. Free day with a Farewell Dinner at The Pines, 50 The Esplanade, Houghton Bay commencing at 6.30 pm. The Canadian Ambassador will be joining us. Cost is \$40.00 per person. Please advise Cindy Switzer on 478-7773 if you wish to come by 23rd February as we will have to confirm numbers.

Thursday 5th March. Our Ambassadors depart to Newcastle, Australia.

We would like as many members who are not hosting to join in. If you could day host or dinner host during the week could you please let Cindy know on 478-7773. This is a great way to get to know the visitors even if you are not hosting and the meal does not have to be a banquet (what about fish and chips down on the beach – followed by strawberries and icecream).

Saitama, Japan to Wellington & Horowhenua, New Zealand. Proposed October 2009.

Exchange Director is Noel Kilmarton.

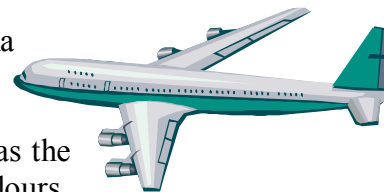
A good friend is hard to find, difficult to leave and impossible to forget.

5.

TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES.

Ottawa, Missoula & Napa - Sonoma

Manawatu Friendship Force Trip to Ottawa, Missoula, & Napa-Sonoma
27th Sept. to 24th Oct. 2009.



Join our club for what will be an exciting trip to Canada and the United States. This is an ideal time of the year to visit that part of the world, as the Mosquito's have disappeared and the trees are brilliant with their fall colours.

Tour details are:- Depart NZ Sun. 27th Sept. for Vancouver arriving the same day for two nights accommodation at the Pacific Palisades Hotel. Included is a city tour, and an optional tour to Victoria Is. and the Butchart Gardens.

Tuesday. 29th Sept fly to Ottawa and a 7 day exchange with the Canadian Capital F.F. Club. Tue 6th Oct. depart Ottawa for Toronto an a two night stop over, where there will be a chance to see the Niagara Falls and all their beauty.

Thursday. 8th Oct. we will move on to Missoula in Montana for a weeks hosting. Missoula is a sister city to Palmerston North and we are assured of a warm welcome there.

Thursday. 15th Oct. it will be time to move on to our next hosting and a warm welcome in the Napa-Sonoma Valley, just North of San Francisco.

Our stay there will be until Thursday. 22nd Oct. and then it will be time to depart for home, or other destinations that may take your fancy.

We have optional trips to Salt Lake City, and Las Vegas available for those interested at the end of the official exchange.

Tour Cost \$5876.90 pp on a share twin basis. [This is subject to change possibly down] Friendship Force Fees of approx \$ 850 pp are extra.

If you are interested or need more information, please contact. Robert Campbell ED, 10 Osborne Terrace, Feilding. Ph. 06 3234601.

Fortaleza and Sao Jose Do Rio Preto, Brazil

An invitation to all members of NZ FF considering coming with us on Greater Dunedin's Inaugural Exchange to Fortaleza and Sao Jose Do Rio Preto

9th June May meet in Auckland, 10th June Leave Auckland

10th - 12th Arrive Santiago (Chile) - stay 3 nights

13th Fly to Sao Paulo (Brazil) (arrive very late) - stay 1 night

14th - 21st Fly to Fortaleza (North Brazil) 7 nights home hosting

21st - 22nd Fly to Brasilia (or Sao Paulo) stay for 2 nights

23rd - 30th Fly to Sao Paulo then to Sao Jose do Rio Preto - 7 nights home hosting

30th - 2nd Fly to Sao Paulo then to Rio de Janiero - stay 3 nights

3rd & 4th Fly to Iguassu Falls - stay 2 nights

5th July Fly back to Sao Paulo then to Santiago.

Then either back to Auckland on the 5th July at 23.05 hours or the alternative is to continue with other travel options. A strong feeling is for a guided tour of Chile, Peru and Bolivia.

Auck-to-Auck Air Fares ONLY will be approximately ---- \$3,880.00

Friendship Force fees will equate to approximately ---- \$750.00

Approximate extra costs will be for Share Twin Accommodation for 11 nights - \$600.00

Excursions to all scenic events in Santiago / Iguassu / Rio etc ---- \$1,000.00

If you are interested contact ED Rona Potiki (03) 454-6355 grandmarona@slingshot.co.nz

Taiwan.

Join the Friendship Force of South Taranaki.

Depart 22nd September 2009 - Auckland to Bangkok (3 nights in Bangkok which includes a city and temples tour).

Friday 25th Sept. - Bangkok to Taipei. Home hosting for 13 nights at Taichung and Kaoshuing.

Wednesday 7th Oct. - Kaoshuing to Hong Kong to Phuket for 4 nights (includes a discovery tour).

Package Price is \$4,098 which includes all return flights, transfers, accommodation in Bangkok and Phuket. Friendship Fees \$590.

Contact ED Jocelyn Terry, Phone (06) 278-5799 or e-mail terryjocal@xtra.co.nz if interested.

6.

FFI News - Important News About Exchange Assignments for 2010

A. Regular Club Exchange Assignments

Over the next few weeks the FFI staff will be sending out the proposed exchanges for 2010. We now have 275 separate club exchanges proposed for a total of approximately 400 weeks of hosting for our global membership. Congratulations to all in our worldwide club network that continue to provide such a strong hosting programme, which is the heart of the Friendship Force.

The next step is for each club to review its proposal and to respond as quickly as possible. Please keep in mind that the assignments are based on a combination of factors, including but not limited to the destination preferences you may have shared with us. We will continue to make adjustments during the year so if your assignment is not yet complete please be assured that we will do our best to finalize it in a timely manner. Our goal is to have all of the 2010 assignments confirmed by May 2009.

B. Something New for 2010: Global Exchanges

In 2010, we will introduce a new type of exchange, called a “global exchange” that combines the best of our traditional club-to-club exchange with the international dimension of Friendship Festivals and conferences. Here is how it will work:

Like regular club exchanges, global exchanges will be assigned to an ambassador club and a host club, each of which will appoint exchange directors (EDs). The ambassador ED will be responsible for recruiting and preparing a full delegation of ambassadors. *However, rather than recruiting exclusively from the ambassador club, global exchanges will be open to ambassador applications from anywhere in the world, with half of the spaces reserved for these “global” applicants.* The two EDs will work together to design very attractive host programmes that emphasise cultural understanding in the host region. The ambassadors will be able to make their own travel arrangements to the host city from anywhere in the world. That is why we are calling the new format “global exchanges” with the hope that they will attract a diverse international mix of ambassadors. **Note:** Though ambassadors will be welcomed from all regions of the world, English will be the designated language for these exchanges.

Why this new format? One of the emerging trends in the Friendship Force world is the opportunity for our members to join exchanges that are being led by other clubs. This is possibly because of the increasingly flexible travel options that are available. Though in previous years it worked best for all ambassadors to travel on the same itinerary, this is no longer true. This new trend is already reflected through the success that many club EDs are having in supplementing their own club ambassadors with those from other clubs. The global exchange format takes this one step further by designing the exchange for a diverse ambassador delegation.

If your club is one of those selected to be the ambassador or host club for a global exchange, you will be provided with additional instructions in your proposal email this month. We hope you will agree to work with FFI on this new format and help us evaluate the results. As a new programme format, it will be limited to just a few exchanges. If successful, we will consider expanding the format in future years. For now, however, fewer than 8% of the exchanges will be *global exchanges*, with the great majority retaining the traditional *club-to-club* format.

C. Special Assignments

Each year, a number of clubs are eager to participate in outbound exchanges but don't have the capacity to fill an exchange with their own members. Clubs in these categories will be offered one of the following special assignments in 2010:

1) *Cooperative Exchanges*: In some cases we are able to offer a “cooperative” exchange with two clubs sharing one outbound opportunity. However, we have learned that this format is sometimes difficult to implement so we will be greatly reducing the number of cooperative exchanges in 2010.

7.

2) *Regional Exchanges*: In some countries with multiple clubs, members of smaller clubs will be invited to join one or more of the regular outbound exchanges from other clubs in their region.

3) *Global Exchange Assignments*: A few clubs will be offered the opportunity to reserve spaces for their members on one or more of the new global exchanges. This will enable the members of smaller clubs to travel together on an exchange without having the responsibility of finding a qualified ED or filling an entire exchange from their club. Clubs with this option will be provided instructions on how to reserve blocks of spaces so their members can travel together if they prefer.

January E-flyer News

In addition to the exchanges announced in the October, November and December 2008 newsletters, the following are in the January E-flyer. **Some of the following exchanges depart from the United States but are open to all Ambassadors.** These 2009 programmes represent some of the many places that you can experience to grow your global circle of friends. If you are interested in any of the following exchanges, please contact the Exchange Director directly.

Vietnam and Cambodia

February 24 - March 12, 2009, cost: \$US2500 (land only). Contact: Barbara St Hilaire, email: barbsthilaire@shaw.ca, ph: +1 604-538-2109. Extensions options may also be available.

Nara, Japan

March 28 - April 5, 2009, cost: to be determined. Contact: Joan Rodgers, email: rodgers3652@comcast.net, ph: +1 541-752-4943. Optional tours to Kyoto and Hakone may be arranged after the exchange.

Santiago, Chile

April 14-25, 2009, cost: \$US2790 including non-stop flight from Atlanta to Santiago; \$US1645 land only, including domestic flight from Santiago to Puerto Montt. Contact: Lynda Anderson, email: lyndasand@bellshouth.net, ph: +1 404-378-2334. Join the Friendship Force of Greater Atlanta and enjoy a one-week home hosting with the Friendship Force members of Santiago. A \$US200 deposit is required with your completed application.

Karsiyaka Bay, Turkey

May 13-31, 2009, estimated cost: \$US3900 including return air fare from Chicago. Contact: Diana Sanders, email: dianasanders@comcast.net, ph: +1 847-625-0745.

Discover China

May 18 - June 4, 2009, cost: \$US2850 (land only). Contact: Lee Rockwell; email: lrockwell@alltel.net, ph:+1 402-484-5431. Round-trip airfare from San Francisco is available, or ambassadors may wish to arrange their own transportation to Shanghai. FFI club members throughout the world are welcome to participate!

Amazon and Peru Adventure

June 8-26, 2009, cost: \$US3042 (land only). Contact: Dianne Karal, email: toy4di@msn.com, ph: +1 319-378-0084. Join us for an exciting 4 day pre-homestay trip to the Amazon and/or an 8 day trip to Cusco, Machu Picchu, and Lake Titicaca before the homestay in Trujillo.

Austria and Central Europe

June 7-21, 2009, cost: \$US1185 (land only); exchange in Vienna only: \$US290. Contact: Ben Szyplinski, email: mnbenher@aol.com, ph: +1 763-588-1158. Visit Budapest, Bratislava, and Prague as well as Vienna where you will be home-hosted.

Saratov, Russia

September 1-15, 2009, estimated cost: \$US3500 (including roundtrip airfare from Des Moines, Iowa). Contact: Rose Schultz email: rosesadv@mchsi.com, ph: +1 641-684-6568 or Diane Oppedal email: dianeopp@peoplepc.com, ph: +1 515-233-2300. Visit Moscow, Saratov and St Petersburg. If you would like to know more about any of the exchanges, visit the FFI website (www.thefriendshipforce.org) or contact Rebecca Shaw on rshaw@thefriendshipforce.org if you have any questions or comments.

Middle age is when your age starts to show around your middle.

8.

When Forest Gump went to Heaven

Forest Gump died and went to heaven and was met at the Pearly Gates by Saint Peter.

“Good to see you” said Saint Peter, “But I must inform you that Heaven is filling up fast, so we have been making everyone sit a test.” “Good to be here” said Forest, “But nobody told me about any entrance exam. I hope it is not too hard, as life was a big enough test as it was”.

“I know,” said Saint Peter, “but there are only three questions. What days of the week begin with the letter T? How many seconds are there in a year? What is God’s name?”

Forest went away to think and returned the next day and went to Saint Peter to try to answer the questions. Forest said, “Well the first one of how many days of the week begin with the letter T – shucks, that’s easy. That would be Today and Tomorrow.”

The Saint’s eyes opened wide and he said “Forest! That’s not what I was thinking, but you do have a point and I guess I did not specify so I will give you credit. How about the next one? How many seconds in a year?”

“Now that’s harder, but I thought and thought and I guess the only answer can be twelve.” Saint Peter was astounded. “Twelve!! How did you come by that?”

Forest said, “Aw, come on Saint Peter, there’s gotta be twelve : January second, February second, March second”

“Hold it,” said Saint Peter, “I guess I see your point, but it’s not quite what I had in mind, so let’s get on with the last one. What’s God’s first name?”

Forest replied “Andy.”

“Andy!” exclaimed Saint Peter, “What is your reason?”

Forest replied, “You know the song we sing in church? Andy walks with me, Andy talks with me.”

The lesson? There is always another point of view, and just because another person does not see things the same way or understand the same way that you do, does not mean it is necessarily wrong.

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 upon this adventure, I know that others will be watching me. I know that through example to my own fellow citizens of other nations, the cause of friendship, love and peace will be furthered.

WELLINGTON CLUB FRIENDSHIP FORCE CALENDAR

2009

- February 6th to 8th. National Conference in Blenheim, Marlborough.
- February 26th to 5th March. Inward Exchange from Edmonton, Canada
- March 1st. Picnic at Days Bay.
- April 19th. Kaitoke Regional Park adventure
- May 24th. Circa Theatre visit.
- June 4th to 8th. The Asia-Pacific Festival will be in Oregon, USA.
- October 18th Outward Exchange to Bogota, Colombia and Curitiba Metropolitan, Brazil.
- October Inward Exchange from Saitama, Japan
- November 19th to 22nd. International Conference will be held in Ohinawa, Japan.

Your Current 2009 Committee

- President Graham Wigley
- Secretary: Ian Speden
- Vice-President: Bob Walker
- Treasurer: David Mazey
- Committee Sue Walker
- Cindy Switzer
- Jeanette Page
- Noel Kilmartin
- Erica Speden

Auditor	Joy McNicoll
Field Representative	Tony Bouzaid
	Yvonne Elliott

The Wellington Club website is :<http://www.newday.co.nz/site-ff/about.html>