I can make a difference
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 people of other countries
the cause of peace and friendship can be furthered.
I can make a difference.
FOREWORD

FOREWARD BY OUR PATRON - ALAN MILNE

In researching this account of our club, I have enjoyed reading the minutes and newsletters, nostalgically relished the pen portraits, the notes of our ‘world famous on the Kapiti Coast’ soup luncheons, pot luck dinners, car rallies, Christmas and solstice dinners, ten pin bowling, fish and chips on the beach, guess who’s coming for dinner, progressive dinners, Leo lunches, Bunco competitions, Hearts nights, quizzes, annual picnics with Wellington FF, anniversary celebrations, Nuts and Bolts days, our AGMs and of course those reports on our inward and outward exchanges (our core activity - our raison d’être) - and the quality jokes in those newsletters!

I have been privileged to have been involved from before the beginning, but I recognise and congratulate each of you for the amazing years of commitment and contributions of so many members, showing great club leadership over thirty years, as together we have explored, understood and served, both here on the Kapiti Coast and in the far corners of the world. It has been (and still is) a great journey and together we have made so many friends, experienced the odd cultural challenge and had so much fun along the way.

We belong to the Friendship Force of Kapiti Coast, a very special club within that great organisation, the Friendship Force International, with the inspiring mission to promote global understanding across barriers that separate people.

In the story which follows many of the comments are not mine but yours as recorded in the meeting minutes and newsletters.
MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT - JUDY BOYLE

Thirty years is a milestone in the life of any club. For those members who have been associated with the club since the beginning and more latterly, what a treasure trove of memories you have.

You will have travelled to and hosted ambassadors from many countries and walks of life. While it is exciting to travel to other countries and see interesting sights, for me it is the people who are so important. Many become lifetime friends and leave lasting impressions.

I have found the people who belong to the Friendship Force have many special qualities. They are warm, considerate, interesting, open, caring and sharing and prepared for a challenge. Hosts go out of their way to provide diverse experiences for their ambassadors. Ambassadors bring new ideas and share their cultures. It is a different experience to live in a home rather than just being a tourist in a country. Through these exchanges comes an understanding of a different culture and way of life.

The Friendship Force provides opportunities to enhance our lives through travel and friendship that are not available in other organisations. I urge you to continue to give the wonderful support to our club that has been shown over the last thirty years so that the next thirty can be as special and enriching.
On the morning of July 4 1977, a plane arrived in Atlanta, Georgia, from Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England, carrying 381 goodwill ambassadors. Later in the day 381 Americans boarded the same plane en route to England. The exchange marked the beginning of Friendship Force International. During this ten day exchange, Wayne Smith’s dream of ‘a world of friends’ became a reality. Smith knew that if complete strangers from different cultures spent just a few days together, the cultural barriers between people would collapse. The Friendship Force philosophy found tremendous success when ‘mission’ trips began to Russia, China and Yugoslavia. In the first 30 years 500,000 people participated in more than 5,700 exchanges.

Friendship Force was founded by Wayne Smith of Decatur, Georgia, USA, who was for seven years a missionary to Brazil, and introduced on March 1, 1977, by President Jimmy Carter at a White House gathering of state governors. At that time, President Carter asked the governors to return to their states and identify a volunteer leader who would serve as State Director for the Friendship Force in their state. Rosalyn Carter served as Honorary Chairperson until 2002.

FF originally involved groups ranging from 150 to 400 private citizens, known as friendship ambassadors, travelling via chartered aircraft to the partner city where a group of the same size boarded to return to the original city, hence the terminology “Exchange,” the word we still use to refer to our travel programmes. The visiting ambassadors were hosted in the homes of volunteer host families for a week, sharing everyday experiences and getting to know each other on a personal basis. The first FF experience involved 762 Ambassadors in a simultaneous exchange between Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England and Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

During its first five years, a few large two-way exchanges were conducted each year. In 1982, Friendship Force travel arrangements changed from charters to one-way “exchanges” on regularly scheduled airlines, allowing greater flexibility and a reduction of group size—first to 40-80 and later to 20-25. The change in format permitted a great expansion of the programme worldwide. Instead of a few large exchanges each year, there are now 250-300 smaller exchanges.

While the size and number of exchanges has changed dramatically since 1977, the basic Friendship Force formula is the same, with visiting ambassadors spending a week in the home of a host family. While each exchange is now in just one direction, the participating ambassadors and hosts develop a shared understanding of each other’s culture so that a true cultural exchange takes place. In many cases, the friendships established during an exchange continue for many years, with follow-up visits through later Friendship Force exchanges or through private visits.

Mr Ryoichi Sasakawa, President of The Japan Shipbuilding Industry Foundation, played an important role in the organisation’s history. After being introduced to the Friendship Force, Mr Sasakawa became convinced of the worthy goals of the programme. Thanks to Mr Sasakawa’s financial gifts in the mid 1980s, The Friendship Force was able to grow into a global network of independent chapters, which are called Friendship Force clubs. The clubs are organised and led by volunteers in more than 360 communities on six continents.
In 1985, the ARMS (American Russian Mutual Survival) programme was implemented under the auspices of The Friendship Force. The endeavour encouraged the use of arms that embrace rather than arms that destroy. In May of that year a group of 30 Soviet citizens travelled to the U.S. to extend arms of friendship in Atlanta, Georgia; 10 then went to Big Canoe and on to Raleigh, North Carolina; Richmond, Virginia and Washington D.C, the other 20 then travelled to Florida. This was followed by a series of exchanges between the USA and the USSR, with thousands of Americans and Soviets participating. The success of the ARMS programme demonstrated that the Friendship Force can be a powerful force for good in the world.

As a result of its initiatives between the United States and the Soviet Union, the Friendship Force was nominated in 1992 for The Nobel Peace Prize.

Since its founding in 1977, The Friendship Force has brought together millions of people. Today we are active in more than 60 countries, promoting friendship and goodwill through an extensive programme of home hosting, or exchanges.

Friendship Force International is a non-profit organisation supported by membership, exchange fees, donations and grants.

Gerald Weekes, as Regional Representative for the South Pacific, directed FFI expansion throughout New Zealand, Australia and Canada. In 1983, a visit from Wayne Smith to his Wanganui office would change his destiny with surprising results. What followed was a quickly-arranged visit by 79 Ambassadors to Wanganui and further exchanges were set in place. In 1984, Gerald became the first Regional Director for New Zealand and initiated the formation of clubs in New Zealand. Gerald was then appointed Regional Representative for the South Pacific and set about approaching former associates with the aim of establishing clubs throughout New Zealand and Australia.

The first clubs in New Zealand were in 1983 – Wanganui, Hamilton and Napier; and 1984 – New Plymouth, Christchurch and Wairarapa. At the same time Gerald was successfully forming clubs in Australia. Later, in September 1994, three days of intense discussion and salesmanship, resulted in a commitment to “give it [their] best effort” - FF Ottawa was launched and soon after, Gerald launched FF Lethbridge, Alberta club, also in Canada. He was named as the FF Outstanding Volunteer for 1987.

Gerald passed away in 2000 and is fondly remembered for his dedication to starting the Friendship Force in New Zealand, Australia and Canada.

He was a big man in all senses!
Wayne Smith visited beautiful New Zealand in the Pacific and fell in love with this unique two-island country. During his stay he met Gerald Weekes, a genial giant of a man and a public information officer for the city of Wanganui. Years later Weekes fondly recalled that meeting.

“I received some preliminary information on The Friendship Force and a letter from Wayne Smith telling me he would be coming to my city to seek an appointment with me”, Weekes recalled. “We often received such requests and some of them were not legitimate; therefore, I tended to be a bit wary of all new proposals. Smith said he would be there on a Monday, but he telephoned me on a Sunday evening to schedule an appointment.

“It was not an ideal time because Helen and I had just returned from a major promotional tour for our city and we were very tired. Nevertheless, I told him to come to my office at 8.30am, thinking I would see him quickly and get it over with before I tackled the full day’s work awaiting me. I simply couldn’t imagine what this Friendship Force business was all about or how it remotely related to me.

“The next morning Wayne Smith came in as scheduled and sat down. Basically he began by saying, ‘Have I got a deal for you!’

‘How would you like a group...’

‘A group?’

‘Yes, how would you like a group of people to come here and stay in private homes to promote friendship and understanding among our people?’

‘How many people?’ Weekes asked warily.

‘Well...a lot of people...do you think you could put together a group of people willing to host people from another country with the idea that they would become friends?’

‘Well...yes, I’m sure I could, but...’

‘Good!’ Smith said.

‘How many are coming?’

‘Eighty people will be coming for a week.’

‘Eighty! For a week!’
“Well, before I knew it, there was a knock on my door. It was my wife Helen telling me it was lunch time!” Weekes recalled. “Quick as a wink Wayne Smith piped up and said ‘Shall we all go to lunch?’

“So we did and he kept talking about The Friendship Force. As we talked I began to see what an amazing organisation this Friendship Force was. We went back to my office and continued talking, and suddenly I realised it was 3pm. Wayne said he had a plane to catch in an hour, so my wife and our daughters took him to the airport.

“I reflected on everything he’d said on the way home and I realised that the reason I had wanted to know every little thing about The Friendship Force organisation was because I was sold. That meeting with Wayne Smith changed our lives.”

The meeting changed a lot of lives in New Zealand and Australia. By 1996 there were 23 clubs in New Zealand and 21 in Australia. The Gerald Weekes International Club of the Year award was established in 1988.
Americans to visit Kapiti Coast

Kapiti residents from Otaki to Paekakariki were treated to a preview of what is to come when 84 Americans visit the Kapiti Coast for one week in April 1987. Mr Gerald Weekes, representative for the South Pacific Region of the Friendship Force, based in Wanganui, addressed a meeting of 35 at Southwards Museum Conference Room on Friday evening 31st October 1986.

“These people from Des Moines, Iowa are coming to New Zealand especially to meet you residents on the Kapiti Coast,” said Mr Weekes. “Over there in Iowa, USA, they will be having meetings and learning all about you before they come. They want to get to know as much as they can, both about the lovely place along the Kapiti Coast and about the people they will meet and stay with here. A matching process will be underway as soon as possible,” explained Mr Weekes. “The idea is to have people of similar interests or hobbies staying with each other. Smokers will not be billeted with non-smokers and people allergic to cats will need cat free homes etc.”

“Anyone can host our American visitors,” said Mr Weekes. “We once borrowed a caravan for them to stay in. They loved it. It is the people they want to meet. Other people work all day but still billet overseas visitors. During the day visitors either tour by themselves or are looked after by day hosts - people who cannot have them stay but want to meet them and show them around. There is room for every combination for hosting these visitors.”

Slides were shown at the meeting demonstrating the friendships made by such exchanges. When asked how many people were interested in hosting the American visitors, almost all hands went up.

To organise the exchange, a Friendship Force Club was formed.

“This is a non religious, non political, non profit organisation,” said Mr Weekes. “The object is to put overseas visitors in touch with the people of the country they visit.”

Elected Officers were:

President: Mr Howard Mander, Paraparaumu
Exchange Director: Mr Geoff Nees of Waikanae
Secretary Treasurer: Kapiti Coast Promotion Council

On Saturday morning 1st November 1986 Mr Gerald Weekes and his wife Helen held a display in Coastlands Shopping Centre where much interest was shown and many people took application forms for membership with a view to hosting the American visitors.
And so the Friendship Force of Kapiti Coast was launched.

Actually the foundations had already been laid with two unrelated events earlier in the year.

Firstly in July Alan Milne had, on a flight from New Orleans to Memphis, met a Finnish Lions District Governor’s wife and in the course of conversation she commented that she had previously been to the US on a Friendship Force exchange to New York and explained a little of the organisation and how the exchange worked.

Secondly in September Gerald Weekes had met with the Kapiti Coast Promotion Council who accepted his invitation to host a group of Americans in 1987. Howard Mander agreed to take responsibility for the project. (Alan Milne was the Council’s chairman, Mac Clunie was the CEO and Mary Milne was the secretary, Roy Waterson attended the meetings as CEO of the Horowhenua Regional Development Council).

Following the public meeting and formation of the club, Geoff Nees and his team did a brilliant job of finding hosts for 86 Americans, ages 5 months to 87 years, and creating an exciting programme for both the visitors and the hosts.

As they say, the rest is history, and a very proud history it is.

*Altogether a very worthwhile visit,* said Mr Weekes. *A new club has been formed. This makes Kapiti the sixteenth club in New Zealand and the people here are certainly enthusiastic. Kapiti can now join with the other clubs for visits overseas. Three all-New Zealand visits are planned for Des Moines, Iowa and Richmond, Virginia, USA plus East Kilbride, Scotland. Other club visits are Napier going to Japan and Palmerston North going to McMasters Beach north of Sydney.*

The new President of Kapiti Coast Friendship Force, Mr Howard Mander, said *"We are pleased to be able to welcome these people from Des Moines, Iowa into our homes and I am sure that lasting friendships will be made."

Exchange Director, Mr Geoff Nees commented *"Anyone wishing to billet, day host or just meet our American visitors when they arrive next April should contact me, the club President or the Kapiti Coast Promotion Council."

- Roy Waterson, Public Relations Officer, Kapiti Coast Friendship Force
1986
PROMOTIONAL POSTER

Poster prepared by Gerald Weekes
1987

April saw us welcome 86 complete strangers from Des Moines who left a week later as good friends. The exciting adventure had truly begun.

In August we had a short-notice special meeting to welcome World President Wayne Smith and Levy Tavares, who were making a whirlwind world tour to outline to FF clubs the new operating principles relating to exchange organisation and travel. Most of us had met Wayne Smith but not Levy Tavares from Brazil, tall, handsome, charming, and the ladies will attest, very huggable, a practice he was promoting to all FF clubs in the interests of friendship!

1988

We produced our first newsletter, ‘Talking to Each Other’, and this has since kept members advised of meetings, activities and exchanges. It was generously sponsored by Cuttriss Consultants for the first fourteen years with Cheryl and Mary doing midnight sessions to compile and print each month’s edition. The stylised hands on the cover (shown below) were drawn by Geoff Nees.

1990

Our president, Len Lloyd passed away – his initiative was a driving force for our club and he was also known throughout New Zealand for his orchids. Later Rosemary donated the large club banner in his honour.

Len Upton arranged the production of our beautiful silk screen printed banners.

Most of our regular club meetings during this period were held in the Council Chambers, we literally had the run of the place - times have changed!
Des Moines, Iowa, USA (May 1987) - “Eighty-six ambassadors from 5 months to 87 years old. Geoff Nees did an amazing job as ED - finding hosts was quite a challenge, we hosted Patti, Caroline and Ronnie, all in their twenties, Ronnie (a school teacher on an FF Sasakawa Fellowship) had never seen the sea before, he opened his suitcase at the Boating Club and took out a kite and flew it on the beach!”

New Hampshire, USA (May 1988) - “We are still in touch with Carolyn and Mark although the green tee shirt is long gone!”

Big Canoe, Georgia, USA (November 1989) - “We hosted Charlene and Dave Terrell (Charlene later wrote ‘The Other Side of the Mountain’) and Dave had been a POW in Vietnam.”

South Taranaki (April 1990) - “Remember Peter Muff on the piano and the kick-off your shoes and dance?”

Springhill, Florida, USA (October 1990) - “Twenty-four energetic Americans for a week? Yes that’s what it turned out to be. All different, but not so different. A few peculiarities maybe, but nothing that us Kiwis couldn’t handle.”

Gifu, Japan (October 1990) - “A small exchange of only eight, generally younger, members. They were keen to experience our lifestyle and three attended morning service at St Luke’s church. Several ambassadors took over a host’s kitchen to cook noodles and make Japanese tea and to perform the tea ceremony.”
Sydney, Australia (March 1991) - 18 ambassadors, we had a well conducted tour of the Police College and I am pleased to say that none of our party was taken into custody. We visited Melody Farm, it certainly surprised us all - Mr Clements took us all on a trip back in time with all of his musical instruments and we were reluctant to leave.

Napier (June 1991) and Wanganui (Aug 1991) - on both of these separate exchanges we enjoyed a meal of soup, fish and chips and lasagne while Wayne Harris and his keyboard entertained us.

Omaha, Nebraska, USA (October - November 1991) - as one male ambassador told his folks back home: ‘I slept with 30 odd women in the same room’ - well that’s his version of an overnight stay at the Tatau o Te Po Marae in Petone - a unique and very special experience. Another highlight for this exchange was the bus trip to the Austin Museum and on by vintage cars to Crosshills to enjoy the Rhodos and lunch, back by the old cars and a very happy, sleepy bus ride home.

Plus exchanges from Minnesota (November 1988), and Cheyenne, Wyoming, USA (May 1989).

A friendly welcome from the Gray Ave Diary for Big Canoe FF (Nov 1989)  
Charlene Terrell, front left
Hawera (October 1987) - “Rhododendron gardens were a highlight.”

Big Canoe / Atlanta, Georgia, USA (February 1988) - “This was an all-New Zealand 10th anniversary ‘back to basics’ exchange: we paid our money, cost $1000 each, not knowing where we were going! Kapiti Coast ambassadors included John and Vivienne Topliffe, Len Lloyd, Alan Milne and daughter Joanna who had her 21st birthday at Big Canoe (an affluent common-interest development gated community in the Appalachian Mountains and the hometown of Wayne Smith).”

West Palm Beach / Spring Hills, Florida, USA (April 1989) - “Kapiti’s first official outward exchange, 19 ambassadors, cost $2041 each, led by club president and Otaki policeman Bruce Hutton.”

Nelson (February 1990) - “Our host remembered John as a young boy coming in to get his hair cut, what a coincidence! A really enjoyable weekend, I believe that internal Friendship Force visits are a very worthwhile experience.”

Bristol / Manchester, England (August 1990) - “Here we began the two most exciting weeks of our lives. We were met by our enthusiastic and hospitable hosts, were taken to visit castles, cathedrals, stately homes, Cambridge University, Stratford-upon-Avon, to Bath and Bristol, the village of Haworth where the Brontë sisters lived, the city of Liverpool, to the village of Holmfirth where they make ‘The Last of the Summer Wine’. A mayoral reception in the city of Oldham. The history of Britain is what gets to one!”

Arnhem, Netherlands (May 1991) - “The reception was very warm even if the weather was cold! I’ll never forget the beautiful bunch of flowers placed in my arms at Schiphol airport, roses, carnations, iris, daisies in red, white and blue ... oh, so beautiful. The Keukenhof gardens, 70 acres, millions of bulbs, were spectacular. I felt that for me this was a learning time about FF in another country, talking FF until I dropped. We only had eight ambassadors.”

Bree, Belgium (May 1991) - “I loved Belgium, both the country and the people, so sincere and the young people very knowledgeable and polite. Lieve spoke five languages. We had a number of interests in common, including an active sense of humour. She even had me riding a ‘white bicycle’ in the National Park north of Arnhem, and I didn’t hit anything or anyone!”

Taken on the Arnhem & Bree exchange with the Bree ED
### NEW ZEALAND CONFERENCES

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This was probably the first conference attended by some of our club members.

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“I was absolutely enthralled by the whole weekend, really fired up for FF, we all attended the opening session where I introduced our contingent and tried to explain where the Kapiti Coast was! CEO of FFI David Luria was interesting, NZ leads the world in ambassador numbers inward and outward - 775 in 1990.”
1992
After 15 years, FF reached two milestones - 2,000 exchanges and 100,000 ambassadors!
The first by-laws of our club were adopted, written by Eric Cook with assistance from Cheryl and Mary.
We had our 5th birthday party in March, this was a dress up affair, back to childhood, school days and all. Heaps of fun!
In October, Julie Parkinson proposed, seconded by Rosemary Lloyd, that Alan Milne be appointed our Patron in appreciation of his loyal support over the years.

1993
We had a garden party in March at Ray and Joan Moffat’s home, Otaki Gorge, with the Wellington and Horowhenua clubs, to meet Cat Wheeler from FFI Atlanta.
Our sixth birthday was a Nursery Rhymes night with Wellington and their exchange from Denver in the USA.
Accumulated funds totalled $4598, subscriptions $10 single and $15 per family or couple.

1994
FFI introduced Friendship Passports, the first received by former First Lady Rosalynn Carter, accumulated stamps will earn discounts on future exchanges.
Cheryl advised that the tablecloths, made from sheets and printed with the FF logo, have arrived and look good.
Cannon Ball trophy purchased for $40 and won by Edith and Allen Wigmore, car was driven by Alan Milne.
1995
The cover of ‘Talking to each other’ was changed to incorporate the sketch of Kapiti Island, a yacht and the beach as drawn by Gerald Weekes. We later used this image for our badge and on the Kapiti Coast flag.

1996
Bill Lambert took over as Newsletter Editor for a brief period.
Thelma and Doug Doherty were elected Life Members in recognition of their amazing fund raising efforts for conference.

Book Fair - for several years over twenty members participated over ten weeks in the sorting and pricing books to raise funds for the proposed Paraparaumu Community Centre which we have subsequently used for many functions.

The 1996 car rally was a great success enjoyed by all (except by three members who a week or so later received speeding tickets - they had been photographed by the wrong arm of the law!) and several more rallies followed over the years.
Lee County, Florida, USA (November 1992) - “Twenty-four ambassadors from Florida, visits to Wellington and Mt Bruce. We had a surplus of potential hosts.”

Varel, Germany (April 1993) - “A very friendly group from Germany but a couple of venue hitches! The Kapiti Coast experience included Paekakariki Hill lookout, Queen Elizabeth Park tram ride, Nyco chocolate factory, Nga Manu, Parsonage Wines and Rangiatea church.”

Shizuoka, Japan (September 1993) - “Twenty-three ambassadors, 10 speak good English, 7 or 8 speak none at all - a challenge but fun. We taught our two male ambassadors the art of drying dishes with a tea towel (and generally helping their wives) and spent an awesome day on the very top of the Akatarawas four wheel driving. Toileting arrangements were very basic – guys down the track that way, ladies the other!”
Nelson (October 1993) – En-route to New Plymouth.

Knoxville, Tennessee, USA (November 1993) - “Our cultural programme included Foxton Clydesdale horses, double deck bus ride, chocolate factory and flax stripping demonstrations, Otaki Māori craft centre and church, sheepskin shops and the beach, with the farewell dinner at Fisherman’s Table.”

Reno, Nevada, USA (May 1994) - “Pot luck welcome at Woodlands, toured Horowhenua in vintage cars, farewell at Boswells.”

Texas, USA (October 1994) - “Twenty-four ambassadors had a tiki tour of Wellington and Kapiti, and Kapiti Island experience.”

Charlotte, North Carolina, USA (November 1994) - Just a short two night stop over.

Ipswich, Australia (March 1995) - “A lawn bowlers’ exchange. The hospitality, friendliness, and concern shown by us was much appreciated by the 22 ambassadors including a four-year-old!”

Hamburg, Germany (November 1995) - “Language was no problem for this large and very friendly group. A popular experience was horse riding at Queen Elizabeth Park and then it rained! Plenty of anecdotes and stories of good times we had with the ambassadors. We have since visited Hildegard on two occasions and many other enduring friendships were made.”

Hawera (May 1996) - “A memorable weekend, a great idea to include the car rally as it gave ambassadors the chance to see the beauty of the area.”

Olympia, Washington, USA (October 1996) - “The ambassadors enjoyed the trip to Melody farm and the train trip.”

Madison, Wisconsin, USA (November 1996) - “Thirty-two ambassadors from Wisconsin and other clubs. Our three guests, all medical persons, indicated that they were flying straight back after the exchange and were sad to miss Rotorua, so we took them bungy jumping at Taupo, on to Rotorua for the thermal and Māori experience and back to Paraparaumu in time for the farewell dinner - all in one day (it was a very early start!). A wine trail trip to Marlborough for 43 was an enjoyable highlight but they all did enjoy their time on the Kapiti Coast. Cultural hiccup - we served our guests pork chops for dinner, only to then learn that they were Jewish!”
Napier (May 1992) - 35 for Queen’s Birthday weekend.

Celebrating Queen’s Birthday weekend with the Napier club

Spokane, Washington / Omaha, Nebraska / Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA (1992) -
“A Wellington exchange but with eight from Kapiti Coast and a return hosting for some. Our hostings in Spokane were spread over 130 kilometres as the club included parts of Idaho. Omaha hosts were wonderful and Betty Unwin got to ride a horse again, quite sad to move on. In Minneapolis we took a paddle steamer trip on the Mississippi – muddy, like every other river I saw; and with 43,000 others we went to a night baseball game. Some impressions - Americans are extremely generous, in many cases embarrassingly so; my hosts were extremely family-conscious and saw that I met those members who lived locally; the USA is a big country and the parts I’ve seen (excluding the LA area), much more pleasant than I had imagined with lots of rolling country and plenty of trees. Thanks Friendship Force - we have hosted and now we have been hosted - what an experience, the trip of a lifetime!”
Bangkok / Changmai, Thailand (March 1993) - “Six from our club joined this Wanganui exchange. Our host in Bangkok was a panel beater, but no cut and replace, he patiently tapped away until the damaged panel was all back to shape! Washing put out every morning and on our return all was ironed and sitting on our bed, even our socks! Changmai, our host had a separate toilet built especially for us; we tried fabric dyeing and visited a fine wood carver who only used an axe! An unconfirmed rumour was that one night, a truck load of boxes of clothing arrived and everyone went to work, cutting off the ‘Made in China’ labels and replacing them with ‘Made in Thailand’!”

Richmond, Virginia / North Carolina, USA (October 1993) - “Thirty-seven ambassadors from across NZ with 13 from our Club, good to be met by members of the Los Angeles Club who hosted us for the afternoon/evening, the exchanges went very well, a great success.”

Colombia Cascade / Olympia, Washington / Omaha, Nebraska USAUSA (September 1994) - “Visited Butchart Gardens, established in an old quarry, amazingly beautiful; by bus to Seattle and Amtrak to Olympia; our stay in Portland was wonderful and we met FF people we had hosted in NZ. A literal highlight was the adventure up Mt St Helens and a picnic with the Portland Club.”

Hawera (April 1995) - “The weather was atrocious with severe flooding but it did not dampen our spirits, the line dancing was enjoyable, 28 members enjoyed the weekend.”

We also had a weekend away in Taupo (1993).
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

1992  Acapulco, Mexico
      Rosemary Lloyd attended with eight New Zealanders.

NEW ZEALAND CONFERENCES

1992  New Plymouth
1993  Wellington
      “I was pleasantly surprised, I enjoyed it! From the key note address by Mrs Bobbie Jones from FFI, the workshops, the visits - I went to Melody Farm, others went to the Culture Centre, the Tip and others to a funeral parlour, not sure what their reactions were!”

1994  Wanganui
      “Nineteen members attended, we volunteered to do conference in 1996 and we won the Road Runner trophy for attendance.”

1995  Howick
      “Twelve of our Club attended, first appearance of Seldom Toobad (aka Alan Milne) promoting our conference!”

1996  KAPITI COAST
      “Julie Parkinson donated a beautiful handmade porcelain doll ‘Sweet Georgia’ to be raffled and Thelma Dougherty made preserves, soup, knickers and lots more; Betty Moss made knitted coat hangers; we had a garage sale - all for funds for conference.

      “After seven hours of assembling and a great deal of pulling and heaving, a replica of Kapiti Island complete with vegetation, birds, driftwood and even a sailing dinghy rose from the floor five metres up towards the ceiling of the Waikanae Memorial Hall. This provided an impressive backdrop for a great weekend for 160 members of the Friendship Force from all 22 New Zealand clubs, plus visitors from Ottawa, Canada, and Claudia Oldenberg from FFI in Atlanta. Those early to their seats for each session competed for prizes from Mr Seldom Toobad and Ms Often Nogood (aka Cheryl Adams), culminating in the Prenderville and Rickets travel prize which was won by Beryl Greenberg.

      “Sunday night’s dinner saw great fancy dress efforts, sweltering King Neptunes, a flounder, Pukeko, crayfish, Māori maiden, colonial ladies along with fishermen and all were entertained with songs and melodrama by Kapiti Playhouse!”

1992 - 1996 CONFERENCES
1996 CONFERENCE
KAPITI COAST

Conference committee and speakers

Fancy dress costume winners with Claudia Oldenburg of FFI

Mr Seldom Toobad and Ms Often Nogood with raffle prize winner Beryl Greenburg

The ‘Kapiti Island’ backdrop
1997
Bill Harvey from FF Greater Denver donated 17 miniature flags for the Club’s flag stand.
Club really concerned as we had no inward International exchange for eighteen months.

1998
Field Representative programme announced in August 1998 by Gerald Weeks and George Brown and the first were appointed - Cindy Switzer (Wellington), Val Main (Wanganui), June Kenworthy (Christchurch), Dianne Hancock (Sth Taranaki), Barbara Callan (Whangarei) and Athol McLachlan (Western Waikato).

One of our members, Alyth Bradey, travelling with FF Horowhenua in Washington State, fell ill and ended up having triple bypass surgery over there.

1999
Alan and Mary Milne were made Life members of our Club.

In mid-1999 Mary and Cheryl ceased their 11 year term producing the newsletter. Jan Reid and Ron Head became our Newsletter Editors.

We had just under $10,000 at the bank.

We bought a Father Xmas outfit from the Warehouse (it had to fit Allan Erskine!).
2000

Wayne Smith confirmed his resignation as FF International President. “When I started this journey in 1977, I believed with all my heart that a world of friends could lead to a world of peace. I still believe that to be true. Thanks to hundreds of thousands like you, I now have the evidence to support my belief.” James ‘Chip’ Carter succeeded him as our President.

Gerald Weekes, the founder of the Friendship Force in New Zealand (and Australia), passed away. He had retired in 1999 and was the catalyst of our formation, a respected friend of our club and a regular visitor in his role as Regional Representative for the South Pacific. Four of us attended his funeral in Wanganui. Our club, especially the foundation members, remember Gerald with great respect and love. His daughter Tanya filled the role until discontinued 31 March 2002.

Club membership at 103.

2001

Betty and Graham Gatward were our newsletter editors.

We bought a sound system.

In May we held our fifteenth birthday party, lunch at Cookies, Kena Kena, with an FFFFF theme, fantastic prizes for outfits - the finest, funkiest, funniest and most flirtatious! Maybe it was held about six months early or even the wrong year!

At the AGM President Ria welcomed the new Mayor and Mayoress Alan and Mary Milne and congratulated Alan on his election.
Greater Denver, Iowa, USA (March 1997) - “A very happy inward exchange for 16 ambassadors, our celebration of our club’s tenth anniversary and the FFI 20th anniversary combined with our farewell dinner was a great success. Maybe we were the first club in the world to celebrate the 20th anniversary, we had 103 people at the Paraparaumu Beach Golf Club. The exchange incurred a $318 deficit, treasurer was very unhappy with the loss, ED nearly resigned!”

Western Waikato (February 1998) - “What a good exchange, enjoyed by all.”

Manawatu (July 1998) - “Great weekend with our Feilding friends with a champagne breakfast.”

Hungary (December 1998) - “On one big day out we took the visitors to Owlcatraz in Shannon, through the Manawatu Gorge, to Mt Bruce for lunch and the birds, the Paua factory, a winery, then over the hill, bush walk at Kaitoke and home!”

Mass / Kempen, Belgium (February 1999) - “Welcome BBQ at Moffats, Otaki, visit to Kapiti Island, Seacat to Marlborough for the wine trail. (This club was previously called Bree which we visited in 1991.)”

All US Golfers, USA (March 1999) - “A hole in one was achieved and the ball was mounted!”

Western Bay of Plenty (July 1999) - “Most of the ambassadors were ex-farmers and orchardists. We visited our local cattle breeder at Otaihanga, Nyco chocolate factory, Hyde Park and Southwards but most important is the fellowship and friendship which develops between visitors and hosts.”

Bristol, England (September 1999) - “Eighteen great ambassadors, Police museum, Moffat’s garden BBQ.”

Tucson, Arizona, USA (November 1999) - “Twenty-seven ambassadors thought the Marae and Kapiti Island visits were great.”

Leicester Walton leads the canoe poi with Tucson exchange
Oklahoma / Michigan, USA (March 2000) - “Eighteen ambassadors mainly from Oklahoma but some also from Michigan, Indiana, Florida and California. Some had only joined to come on the exchange and it was a learning experience for them. Included was a harbour ferry trip, the Garden Railway at Otaki and a model farm visit, also over to the Wairarapa. ‘We have enjoyed this time so much more than we can express’.”

Hertfordshire, England (November 2000) - Cross Hills gardens, Owlcattraz, deer farm.

Glass House Mountains, Australia (September 2001) - “This is what Friendship Force is all about, meeting new people and old friends, a week of fun and friendship followed, fantastic food, Wellington and Wairarapa visits, fond memories - remember the legend of the Bib?”

Lincoln, Nebraska, USA (October 2001) - “What a programme! The Wahines, lawn bowling, Cable car, Parliament, Mayoral reception, Paua Shell factory, Gladstone vineyard.”

We also hosted Wairarapa (June 1999).
Manawatu (April 1997) - "I did enjoy it! I truly did enjoy our ‘mystery weekend’ in Feilding. What fun to be with people of one’s own ilk. Meeting FF members in another part of NZ is great. Getting to our venue by devious means was well thought out, but I do really feel deprived by missing out on fish and chips for tea!"

Tucson, Arizona, USA (June 1997) - “Temperature 105°F, plenty of Cacti, not much grass except on the golf courses, met the Mayor, visited Sonora Desert museum, enjoyed western style BBQ, went over the Mexican border to Nogales, a great experience. My visit to Tombstone was one of the highlights of my trip.”

Binghamton, New York, USA (June 1997) - "We enjoyed the opportunity to ride on the Carousel, take a boat trip around the lake, visit Corningware Glassworks, a university, steam train museum and an Indian pow wow, and the farewell dinner was a scrumptious affair. We then had a stopover in New York city, strolled up 42nd Street to Times Square, and found all the excitement of the night, buskers, rap dancers, shops, lights, noise, music, impatient taxi drivers, stalls and the big neon signs."

Hamburg, Germany (June 1997) - "So pleased to have the opportunity to meet the Hamburg folk again, they were so friendly and treated us right royally. Christian caught several frogs for the ladies (the brave ones) to kiss, they were supposed to get a handsome prince but it did not work, perhaps our kisses were not right!"

Wairarapa (June 1998) - “We managed a weekend over the hill in the Wairarapa enjoying a great winter solstice Christmas dinner.”
**Campinas, Brazil / Bogota, Colombia / Quito, Ecuador (1998)** - “Four members joined a New Plymouth exchange of 43 people from 12 NZ clubs which was truly a once in a lifetime experience of hospitality, dancing, food, snakes, tarantulas, emeralds and gold with added bonuses of Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, Iguassu Falls, Lima, Machu Picchu, Lake Titicaca and La Paz. Sadly we lost Merika Carter in a remote toilet near the equator in Ecuador!”

**Mt Gambia / Adelaide (October 1998)** - “A very successful exchange of 16 plus two from Wellington, we were great ambassadors, Mt Gambia was an excellent club to visit, most hospitable; cool reception in Adelaide but pleasant.”

**Shizuoka, Japan (May 1999)** - “First stop after a three hour bus ride was at McKenzie House where we were given a great welcome, together with our first taste of Japanese food, luckily everything was labelled as this was potluck homemade food! We experienced many crafts, sand pictures on black lacquer trays, kimono sewing school, elementary school. But the highlight was the Tsujigaha Kimono museum on Mt Fuji – one man’s dream is to create 80 kimono to make a mural of the four seasons – only 37 completed so far and it takes one year to complete one kimono, and the artist is already 80 years old! Wonderful to renew friendships and we really enjoyed the irises and the azaleas.”
Dressed up in beautiful kimonos in Shizuoka

The ambassadors at the Diet, Tokyo

Machida, Japan (May 1999) - “A one kilometre walk followed strap-hanging on a local train after our smooth fast ride on the Shinkanzen, and we were reunited with our luggage - much relief! A very formal welcome in a flash hotel, caught out here as were casually dressed and we were not too good on the Taiko drums. The programme included a Mayoral reception, recycling depot, a gymnasium, print museum, gardens, the Diet where we were hosted by their local MP, the sights of Tokyo, and experiencing Ikebana (the guys did well), calligraphy and the tea ceremony. We will never forget the last minute ED, Mr Sahara san. Many toilet experiences were shared! We did NZ proud and we came home enriched.”

Denver, Colorado / Columbia Cascades, Washington, USA & Penticton, Canada (May 2000) - “Ten members joined the Wanganui exchange. A wonderful time with wonderful hosts.”

Newcastle, Australia (August 2000) “A highlight of the visit was the welcome dinner with Don’s mulled wine and being entertained by a group of belly dancers, some of whom had lovely hairy chests and ‘tums’ bedecked with diamante navels.”

Glass House Mountains, Australia (August 2000) “I was expecting a town but there was just a railway station, a garage and a store! We enjoyed a varied programme and this was a super place to visit, my hosts live on a 40 acre macadamia nut farm where there are no locked doors and the people are very friendly. I had a lot of fun and was made to feel one of the family. This is the beginning of another wonderful friendship - the aim of the Friendship Force.”
Kauai / Honolulu, Hawaii (2001) - “Four of our members joined this Gisborne exchange. Kauai was very rustic and the red soil stained everything. Chooks everywhere, canyons, old plantations, Bali Hai landscapes, beaches, very friendly. Honolulu - hosted way out at Waianae near the beach, our host was crazy about butterflies. Visited the ‘US Arizona’, also a Spy base and nearly got ‘spread eagled’ by security, wonderful gardens. The new white Mustang convertible was pretty sweet.”

Kapiti Coast Ambassadors and hosts, Honolulu, Hawaii

Jundai, Brazil (April 2001) - “Thirteen of our club plus one from Auckland flew to Brazil. Delighted squeals, cries of ‘Friendship Force!’ and hugs and kisses greeted us as we straggled into Sao Paulo. They were incredibly enthusiastic, warm and friendly, living in homes which were fortified and guarded by security fences, and a savage Rottweiler.”

Porto Alegre, Brazil (April 2001) - “Was completely different to Jundiai, a charming old colonial city with lots of trees and markedly cooler weather, the people warm and friendly but with a calm reserve.”

Western Waikato (June 2001) - Headed away by train, opportunity for 14 members to attend Mystery Creek Field Days.

Western Bay of Plenty (June 2001) - Sightseeing Katikati, pack house visit, walk around the Mount, good hosting, singing and food.
NEW ZEALAND CONFERENCES

1997  Whangarei
Mixed reviews, open sessions good, meal system a disaster, not a happy conference! Claudia Parkes FFI spokesperson and she explained 1997 exchange policies.

1998  Manawatu
We all went through the stock race and were drenched before registering! Many useful points raised at Presidents’ meeting, main concern around lack of, and cancelled, exchanges. George Brown and his family were present.

1999  South Taranaki

2000  Gisborne
We (all 28 of us) looked great in our old time bathing suits. Wayne Smith and George Brown both attended this First Light conference!

2001  Christchurch
We won the Overlander trophy (for the most members/distance travelled). Chip Carter with his new wife Becky attended from FFI.
2002
June Kenworthy (Christchurch) was appointed Field Representative Co-ordinator for NZ.

2003
New President of FFI is Susie Smith. Doug Dean (Marlborough), Keith Clark (Manawatu) and Bruce Jessop (Howick) were appointed NZ Field Reps, with significantly increased responsibilities.

Club Newsletters now cost about $60 a time.

2004
Eve Olsson took over as newsletter editor from Graham and Betty Gatward. Now being sent out by email if you are on the internet.

In June 2004 the founder of Friendship Force International, Wayne Smith, died at his home.

Ken Tarrant was appointed a Field Representative for the Lower North Island including our Club.

Cheryl Adams, very long time Secretary and President, stood down from the Board who acknowledged her great work with a special citation and flowers.

2005
World Friendship Day, 1 March 2005 was celebrated worldwide and we marked the occasion with a buffet breakfast at Southwards.

Our FFI President, Susie Smith, resigned in 2005, as she was marrying and moving to California.

Cheryl Adams was presented with Life membership of our Club.

FF New Zealand website up and running.

Club purchased 50 embroidered hand towels for gifts, $132 for towels, $332 for embroidery.

We resolved to become an Incorporated Society and adopted a new set of rules.

2006
For our annual Wellington gathering in 2006 we provided overnight hosting.

Mid-year we had a great Hawaii night, Elvis, rock’n roll and all.

Our membership is 85.
Niagara-on-the-Lake, Canada (February 2002) - “A variety of activities were indulged in; it is obvious a lot of bonding has taken place. A problem with Canadian vs NZ English, one member thought he was going to a power factory, turned out it was the Paua factory! Farewell was a happy occasion tinged with sadness, much laughter as we listened to anecdotes that we shared, the canoe journey across the Tasman provided some aerobic exercise and great amusement!”

Wanganui (October 2002) - “Seventeen arrived in pouring rain, soup and dessert, tiki tour car rally, visitors reported having a great time with hosts some of whom were new members.”

Nashik, India (May 2003) - “Three members from India visited us for three days, 62 members enjoyed a great evening and a terrific meal, our guests’ presentation of ‘The Gandhi Message of Peace’ was a highlight.”

Nelson (August 2003) - “Eleven arrived by train from the Wairarapa, great pot luck Asian meal, superb food and members dressed in the appropriate garb.”

Minnesota-Twin Cities, Minnesota, USA (October 2003) - “Twenty-one very weary ambassadors flew in direct from the USA, beautiful weather for the Kapiti Island visit, loved their first taste of pavlova, Mayoral reception, retail therapy, picnic lunch with Brian and Glenys Daw’s lovely garden, welcome on to Raukawa Marae, tearful farewell.”

Gold Coast, Australia (November 2003) - “As a first time Exchange Director and first time hosts, it has been a fun and rewarding experience, the Kena Kena school Kapa Haka group powhiri for our ambassadors was the highlight of their entire three weeks! Tour of Wellington with lunch at The Pines, local BBQ and dinner at the Next Door Restaurant. But then the rugby, imagine it projected onto the wall, eight Australians, eight NZers, it’s the World Cup semi final and we lost to Australia, oh, the agony!”

Enjoying dinner with the Niagara exchange
**Christchurch (January 2004)** - “Eighteen ambassadors arrived by train, fortunately they saw the coastline and Island in brilliant sunshine, as the rain set in and did not let up! Karaoke fun and great singing, BBQ washed out but enjoyed lunch at Lindale Farm kitchen.”

**Western Colorado, USA (April 2004)** - “Only seven ambassadors to brave the cold and rain of our autumn! Pizza and ‘Whale Rider’ was enjoyed by all, great Kena Kena school kapa haka welcome, some went to Te Papa, others across the harbour on the ferry, four went to Kapiti Island and two made it to the top.”

**Gisborne (August 2004)** - “A great weekend rekindling friendships and establishing new ones.”

**Bohemia / Prague, Czech Republic (January 2005)** - “This exchange required an official Mayoral invitation. We had a very full programme but the 14 youngish ambassadors breezed through it although they opted for a dose of retail therapy instead of the Wellington City tour and Te Papa. We arranged a Mayoral reception, visits to Rangiatea church, Te Kokori Developments, Levin, Wairarapa visit including Kahutara taxidermy, Kapiti Island, pizza night at home of Charlene & Bruce Bryant, Peka Peka, sausage sizzle, visit to home of Mirek Smisek. Some issues with cultural expectations.”

**New Plymouth & Napier (August 2005)** - “Twenty-five ambassadors spent Saturday on the coast, Police College and Craft World before an excellent dinner at Lindale Farm Kitchen. Sunday was our soup luncheon and Murray Henderson spoke on his time on the Pamir.”

**Wairarapa (September 2005)** - “Five members made the trip, one came over the Akatarawa Road and the others experienced the joys of Centennial Highway on a Friday afternoon! Kapiti FF Inaugural Wine and Food Festival was a lot of fun, such exotic places as Egypt, Mexico, Wales, Fiji and NZ with everyone dressing appropriately.”

**Western Tokyo, Japan (October 2005)** - “Twelve very weary ambassadors flew in directly from Japan. Four wheel driving in the Maungakotukutukus, the Island, a farm visit to view dog handling, sheep shearing and cattle weighing, a Mayoral reception and a trip to Wellington. It was wonderful to renew our friendships of ‘99 - club was previously Machida City.”

**Connecticut / Massachusetts, USA (April 2006)** - “Ten ambassadors, Mayoral reception on arrival at 4.30pm, welcome breakfast at Waikanae Golf Club, Nga Manu, fish and chip night, church service at Rangiatea, alpaca and sheep experience, Arts Trail, Wellington visit, Anzac Citizens Parade, Sopranos dinner, Wairarapa and Stonehenge, Kapiti Island. We sang the ambassadors on their way, we started the week as strangers but by the end of it we were certainly friends.”

**Newcastle, Australia (October 2006)** - “Seven ambassadors enjoyed a rough and late crossing from Nelson, welcome pot luck dinner at Waikanae Senior Citizens Hall, Parrot Ranch at Levin, Coehaven Gardens at Otaki, Wairarapa, fish and chips on the beach, Jeanette’s for dessert, mini arts trail with Mary Oldham paintings, Jane Santos mosaics and Mirek Smisek pottery, farewell dinner at Paraparaumu Community Centre. We enjoyed a lot of laughs and good times although sadly two couples had to cancel due to illness at the last minute.”
Casterton, Australia (April 2002) - “Our wonderful hosts lived on a 1000 acre farm, we visited a Gum forest nursery, a dropper factory, a sheep farm in a shed (finest Merino wool, sold a bale for $131,000!), Mt Gambia.”

Mt Barker, Australia (April 2002) - “Taken for miles every day, no problem to my wonderful hosts, morning tea in a railway carriage, picnics, observed fisherman rescue at Victor Harbour (ambulance went over the tram bridge), BBQ lunch with a young German playing the didgeridoo, Hahndorf and lots more. After this exchange seven of us did a Murray River houseboat adventure, top speed 8 km, oh so peaceful, while others enjoyed Adelaide, Perth and Melbourne.”

Nelson / Marlborough (August 2002) - “Fourteen on the Lynx to Picton, bus to Nelson, flea market, Wearable Arts exhibition, Hoglund glass, back to Blenheim, pot luck, winery visit, sea too rough to go home so an extra night of hosting, great new friends.”

Wairarapa (May 2003) - “Spread far and wide, visited wineries, and ate and drank in restaurants and warm, welcoming homes, my first internal exchange and I recommend the idea.”

Tamworth, Australia (September 2004) - “Six hours by train from Sydney, first day to the Lookout, where we were interviewed, group photo and next day we were in the local paper! Civic reception, we planted a NZ Christmas bush with a plaque in the Botanic Gardens, wildlife park and flight training academy, farewell lunch with a country music concert. Back to Sydney for two nights, all 16 of us.”

Friendship Force from over the Tasman drops in on city

THE 16 Friendship Force members from the New Zealand North Island area of Kapiti Coast observed a starkly different landscape during their train trip from Sydney to Tamworth. Direct from the lush coastal strip outside Wellington, the visitors are being home hosted with Tamworth Friendship Force members. Kapiti Coast Friendship Force co-ordinator Annette Ryniker said the visitors, who hailed from the towns of Otaki, Te Horo, Wanganui, Paraparaumu, Raumati and Paraparapari, had enjoyed their visit to date.

“There are many great reasons why these home hosting visits are so beneficial,” Helen Fergus, of Tamworth Friendship Force said.

“Tamworth has beautiful rivers, lakes and mountains that provide the perfect outdoor environment for the visitors.”

Today's agenda includes a mayoral reception at the Tamworth Regional Council, a tree-planting ceremony in the Botanic Gardens, wine tasting and a special Tamworth-style meal.
Quenbeyan, Canberra, Australia (September 2004) - “Very large sponge cake with ‘Welcome to Kapiti Coast Friendship Force’ in green lettering, Leicester said we would need a chainsaw to cut it! Met the NZ High Commissioner (from Waikanae), Duntroon, Tidbinbilla nature reserve and Deep Space tracking station, Parliament and National War Memorial, 18 on exchange.”

Wanganui (October 2004) - “Drove up, pot luck dinner at Wanganui’s own club rooms, it rained and blew so it was a great opportunity to get to know each other. Sunday morning we attended St Oswald’s Church (a lovely old brick building) and enjoyed a drive around the area.”

Minnesota-Twin Cities, Minnesota, USA (September 2005) - “Eight from our club plus seven others enjoyed wild weather, paddleboat cruise on the Mississippi, turkey dinner, baseball game at Humphreys Field, Minnesota State fair, Blue Grass Music Festival, Mall of America and a cabin stay up north, a great week and many renewed friendships.”

Lincoln, Nebraska, USA (September 2005) - “Welcomed with ‘Celebrate the Diversity of Lincoln’, new immigrants had been invited, sharing of food, dancing and music, the Capitol, the Governor’s mansion for lunch (met the Governor’s wife who made us all honorary citizens), across the prairies, miles of corn and no hills, and lots, lots more memorable highlights!”

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, USA (September 2005) - “Deep in Bible Belt territory, State Capitol building, Cowboy museum, Braum’s dairy operation - has own cows, processing and retailing, Jalapeno processing plant, oil wells, Buffalo Bill and Geronimo territory, Route 66 and the Oklahoma bombing memorial - very moving.”

New Plymouth (October 2006) - “Bright and early start, bus broke down at Ohau, some TLC and surgery from our driver, Laurie Bason, got us going again, stopped at Tawhiti Museum, welcome by our hosts, waterfront walkway, Pukekura Park, Saturday night smorgasbord Chinese banquet and soup lunch before home after a most enjoyable weekend.”

Melbourne, Australia (October 2006) - “Welcome cooked breakfast, city tour, Williams Town, Dandenong Ranges, Cockatoos on our heads and shoulders, 1870’s mansion.”

Bundaberg, Australia (October 2006) - “Varied, interesting and entertaining programme, caught up with Bristol FF, cruised the Burnett River, historic Childers and the Backpackers Fire Memorial, sad and very moving, Snakes Down Under, Mayoral reception and planted a tree, Bundaberg Ginger Beer and Rum factory.”

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (2006) - “Three of our members joined a New Plymouth exchange. Meeting our hosts was a little tentative as neither could speak much English but we were lucky - we had hosts! Mongolian mutton dumplings, deep fried beef pies, dried cheeses and salted mare’s milk tea. Nine hour overnight drive to our camp. We watched the morning milking of the yaks, cows, horses, sheep and goats. Fermented mare’s milk was distilled to make spirits. These people made us very welcome, shared their food, laughter and jokes with us complete strangers, they sure knew how to bring tears to our eyes.”
NEW ZEALAND CONFERENCES

2002  Horowhenua

“250 delegates including 21 of our members, all of whom enjoyed the gathering, only one disaster and that was the horse race - our horse collapsed while in the lead of a 50 metre dash (strangely enough I can’t remember who the rider was!).”

2003  Hamilton/Western Waikato

2004  Wanganui

2005  Nelson

“Matters discussed included payment of fees, a NZ bank account, important to become incorporated, PI insurance. George Brown spoke on ‘FF Yesterday, today and tomorrow’, and the dinner theme was wearable art - all seventeen of us wore white tee shirts with a design of cards in plastic on the front and nearly expired from the heat!”

Dressed up for dinner at the Nelson conference
2006  Taupo

“240 members (including 8 of ours) enjoyed a good conference, George Brown from FFI, theme of Saturday night was ‘Rainbows’ - our ladies wore bows and hats with mock rain, whilst the guys wore hats with cut out rainbow trout hanging from the brim and a pot of gold on the brim, music by ‘No Wurez’ band (Billy T’s cousins - Cuppa T and Potta T).”
2007

Debbie Lattey took over the newsletter from Eve Olsson and the April issue showed a reversed version of Gerald’s sketch with Kapiti Island the right way round. We had always thought it was wrong but it needed a new member to make the change!


Yvonne Elliott is our new Field Rep.

Club aprons in red and blue were introduced to facilitate assistance with dish washing and clean up - you signed the apron when you did your bit!

Ambassador bags bought and printed for $6 each.

Our Club’s 21st birthday - a great night with the opportunity to catch up with old friends, continuous power point of photos, lovely to have members from Taupo, Gisborne, Wanganui, Horowhenua, South Taranaki and Wellington and Field Rep Yvonne Elliot (Horowhenua). A world map showed all our exchanges!

Margaret and Leicester Walton were both honoured with Life membership, thoroughly deserved and a pleasure to recognise the many years of work by these loyal and supportive members. (Margaret was gob smacked to use her own words!) These were presented at our 21st birthday party, a very successful event!
2008

We had the first Field Rep’s Day for the lower North Island in Sanson - later to become the annual Nuts and Bolts Day! 143 attended from 10 clubs and we won the inaugural fun competition and the Nuts and Bolts trophy.

Friendship Force International launched the new logo, mission, values and vision. Our new logo can convey different things to different people; it can be six continents with many islands; or doves of peace; or people (around a table?); some even see hands. Or it can simply be a sparkle of colour that will help us capture the attention of potential new members.

In October our newsletter ‘Talking to each other’ sported the new logo - looks great!

International Board - Alan Milne has been elected to the Board and will retain that position for four years. This is a great honour for him personally, for our club and country and for this area of the world. He does not represent only our area but the whole world as the Board members have international responsibility. This is huge stuff and we are all very delighted to be behind you and to support you in this new and amazing adventure for Friendship Force.

2009

Joyce Gibson took over as Newsletter editor.

The Club adopted the white name badges and subsidised the cost for the first run.

The NZ E-Flyer is introduced but our Club decided not to provide email addresses, will only go to our Secretary who will then distribute it to all members.

Council no longer funding Mayoral Receptions.

2010

The new (black) Club banner, most impressive.

FFI introduces the Wayne Smith Medal.

Our aprons have gone missing!

Life membership was awarded to Ria and Allan Erskine acknowledging their huge contribution to the success of our club over twenty years.
The Queen’s Birthday Honours List in 2010 saw the award of a New Zealand Order of Merit to Alan Milne, in recognition of his services to our community – including the Friendship Force both in Kapiti and internationally.

2011

Alan Milne has been elected chairperson of the FF International Board.

We all reeled with shock over another more devastating earthquake in Christchurch and as we came to terms with what was happening in our own country we were then stunned to hear of the horrifying events in Japan. These tragic earthquakes impacted on the peoples of both areas including members of FF clubs and also on the planned exchanges for FFI including our own to Saitama and Sapporo which were deferred until 2013.

Robert Campbell from Manawatu was our new Field Rep. and was our guest at the Soup lunch.

Matthew Nidek was appointed as our FFI liaison person, he has lived and travelled in Australia and New Zealand since 2004 so is familiar with our ways. He has a music degree and performed with small jazz ensembles in Sydney and Melbourne and the Royal NZ Air Force Band and Vector Wellington Orchestra. He worked for NZ Department of Internal Affairs.
North Bay, Canada (April 2007) - “Eleven ambassadors visited Te Papa, Parliament, the Marine Museum, Kapiti Island with four making it to the top, sheep dogs, shearing, textiles, St Mary’s church, Otaki, Wairarapa and the Police museum – a comprehensive programme and a great time with the Canadians!”

Thames (July 2007) - “Two nights of rest and recreation was enjoyed on their way to the South Island, members felt dinner at Rainbow Restaurant was good value.”

Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA (November 2007) - “Twenty-eight ambassadors, Mayoral reception by new Mayor Jenny Rowan, impressive. Visits to Wellington, Wairarapa including Stonehenge Aoteroa, Hutt Valley to visit Stansborough and their turn of the century loom - an amazing factory and wardrobe. They did bring a virus with them and every day there were some who could not participate in the programme.”

Gelsenkirchen, Germany (Nov 2007) - “Thirteen ambassadors, late arrival by train, pot luck picnic welcome, Wellington day with German speaking guide, Wanganui with river cruise, wine tasting in Wairarapa by train, Mayoral welcome, farewell dinner and club Christmas party, great exchange and so much fun!”
Hanover, Germany (March 2008) - “Eighteen ambassadors, Mayoral welcome, Kapiti day including a very windy Paekakariki Hill, birds of the Coast - Levin’s parrots, Nga Manu for Kiwi (and Tuatara), to Wellington twice including Unimog South Coast trip and Karori Sanctuary, wonderful guests, very easy to entertain and full of fun!”

Wairarapa (2008) - “Originally part of the cancelled Memphis exchange, a successful day was spent at the daffodil festival and included several non-members.”

Sapporo, Japan (November 2008)
“Sushi and Santa sums it up! South Coast four wheel drive was ‘exciting’, ‘I screamed my head off’ and ‘very good time’, Nga Manu, Clydesdales, parrots, Rangiatea Church, loved our beach. A memorable and emotional moment was our two ambassadors, after the farewell, slowly lowering our Japanese flag while they sang their national anthem!”
Sydney, Australia (May 2009)

“Wet and windy weather, flax weaving and greenstone at Paekakariki, Kapiti Island, Wellington including the Weta Cave, perfect weather for the Wellington Unimog and Karori Sanctuary adventure, Adrienne and Colin’s treasure chest of dolls, trains, coins and much more. Farewell dinner with Waltzing Matilda, Pokarekare Ana and Now is the Hour, donation to our Aquatic Centre instead of Club gift, to be recorded on a tile at the pool!”
North Shore (August 2009) - “Three nights, Nyco chocolate, Prentzel, Southwards, flower show and tram local day with lunch at Debbie and Wilson’s, pre-dinner drinks at Mary and Alan’s before Cookies, Wellington on Saturday, finishing at Sanson at the Nuts and Bolts day.”

Cedar Rapids, USA and Hobart, Australia - the ANZUS exchange (April 2010) - “Te Roopu Kapa Haka entertained at the welcome dinner, we were welcomed onto the Raukawa Marae, we commemorated Anzac Day. It was a big job hosting 31 ambassadors.”

Phyllis, ED of Cedar Rapids: “Thank you, thank you, thank you. You gave an outstanding performance. Our exchange with your club will not be forgotten. You had so much planned and all was exciting. It is hard to say what might have been the high point - there were so many and each ambassador had his or her own most memorable experience.”

Rod, ED of Hobart: “Our ambassadors have, without exception, commented most appreciatively on the host matchings, the activities included in the exchange, the opportunities to make new friendships, and the chance to visit the Kapiti region and to experience the warmth and generosity of the Kapiti Coast club.”
Carrying the flags at the ANZAC Day Parade 2010 – Phillis (Cedar Rapids ED), our ED Debbie Lattey, and Rod Seppelt (Hobart ED)

Countries unite

Ambassadors from Australia and America joined their New Zealand counterparts in flying their respective flags during the citizens parade in Paraparaumu on ANZAC Day as part of the Kapiti Friendship Forces’ ANZAC Exchange programme.

The 21 overseas representatives who participated in the parade were from Cedar Rapids in Iowa and Hobart, said organiser Debbie Lattey.

“It was good, they really enjoyed it,” she said.

“The Australians are used to the ANZAC celebrations and the Americans found it very interesting to see what we do here.”

The group also spent time at Te Papa, parliament and the Zealandia wildlife sanctuary in Karori during their week-long exchange.

They also participated in games, including gumboot throwing at Summertown Gardens for the ANZAC Trophy and a big basket of chocolate from the Kapiti Chocolate Factory.

“Everybody enjoyed that,” she said. “The Americans won the trophy, but I’m pleased to say we beat the Australians.”

The group was set to return home on Saturday, she said.

Taupo (August 2010) - “An enthusiastic group of eight enjoyed kind hospitality with hosting, dinners, lunches and afternoon teas and seeing Southwards and the Police museum plus ten pin bowling. They joined with us at the Nuts and Bolts day and won the trophy.”

Vintage Transport Global Exchange (November 2011) - “Thirteen ambassadors from England, Australia and the USA were hosted by FF Marlborough, Manawatu, Gisborne, Napier and Kapiti Coast (the lead club). Vintage transport was the theme with visits to various museums and collections, with the highlight being the train trip from Paraparaumu to Gisborne, back to Napier and through the Wairarapa to Wellington. Very different and very successful.”
Napier (May 2007) - “Nineteen members stopped at Norsewood for lunch and on for a weekend of fun and fellowship, the sights of the Bay, a well organised progressive dinner, the Farmers Market at Hastings, and the farewell at the Mongolian Restaurant. Generous hospitality, beautiful weather, a great weekend.”

Hanover, Germany & Prague, Czech Republic (August 2007) - “The club was well organised for our group of twelve. The weather was great, two organ grinders at the welcome dinner, met the Pied Piper in Hamelin - a very colourful character! - boat trip down the Weser, real German oompah-pah, lots of beer, farewell dinner and Pat Davy was chosen as the lucky bride - after many kisses she asked for a divorce! Theresa Tufnail excelled with the long pois. Then Berlin for three nights and on to Prague - even more walking, palaces, churches, theatres and museums!”

Noumea, New Caledonia (April 2008) - “Fourteen ambassadors, palm trees, coconut trees, frangipani and hibiscus, kanak band, leis, welcome BBQ lunch with l’escargots, cuisses de grenouilles, French cheese and wines, Pokarekare ana - they knew every verse (embarrassing!), Noumea sightseeing, Kanak meal like a hangi, snorkelling and glass bottom boat to see the fish. Our hosts go back to France for summer and shopping, our school days’ French was a bit rusty!”

Gold Coast, Australia (April 2008) - “Eighteen ambassadors enjoyed their monthly club meeting and welcome at Pacific Fair followed by BYO picnic on Kurrawa Park. Visits included Driz-a-Bone factory, Horrigan’s Irish pub, Carlton Brewery, Mayoral reception and tree planting, ending with breakfast at the Surf Club. Ten of us then carried on to Darwin for a trip on the Ghan, Alice Springs, Uluru and to Adelaide and Melbourne!”
Taupo (March 2009) - “Twenty-one members, picnic lunch at Four Mile Bay, embroidery exhibition, Home Show, or for the energetic - chairlift up Mt Ruapehu, petanque by the lake, RSA for lunch and then home after a brilliant weekend.”

North Bay, Canada & Charlottesville, USA (September 2009) - “This was an unusual exchange in that there were only two people from NZ but we were joined by 10 ambassadors from Austin, Texas. North Bay policy is that hosts provide accommodation and breakfast and the other club members are day hosts. We visited the Fur factory, the Adventurers Museum - amazing pioneers, North Bay was where the Dion quinns were born, a sad story. Our hosts drove us on the two day trip to Charlottesville (rumour is that Jan got lost overnight after some US border problem) and joined us on the exchange, here was the home of Thomas Jefferson and the cultural centre of Virginia.”

West Waikato / Rotorua / Gisborne & Napier (September 2009) - “I much enjoyed my trip around central New Zealand for three reasons. I was really pleased to meet and stay with very welcoming people in three places, who took pleasure in showing me their hometown. I realised that Friendship Force has the power to bring people together when my last host commented that she had been on an international exchange with the good friend of my previous host! Such a small world! Finally I enjoyed the opportunity to get to know my own club’s members a little better too. Thank you for the trouble you took to make the trip go so smoothly. Oh those hot pools and the icecream after our dip, the whitebait omelette for lunch, the gardens, the training school for flight crew. Raglan was a delightful surprise, the opportunity to have a look around the tourist shops in Tirau, the meal and the rugby in Rotorua and the Arboretum in Gisborne, but most of all the people we met along the way and even the singing we did.”
North Moreton / Central Coast, Australia & Malang, Indonesia (September 2010)
“A varied and interesting programme including a visit to Australia Zoo and very good hostings, then 12 hours by train to Gosford, an hilarious shipwreck party and a coach trip to the Hunter Valley. Then from Sydney we flew to Jakarta and on to Malang. A full programme encompassing the food, customs and history of Indonesia. We visited Mt Bromo, an active volcano, to see the sunrise and we enjoyed the traditional dance and music. There were some cultural, sleeping and facilities challenges, but a lot of pleasant memories, hard work and interesting!”

Isle of Wight, England (2011) - “Jan Reid led a Global Exchange with ambassadors from Germany, France, Belgium, Canada, USA. Australia and NZ. It was a wonderful opportunity for us to enjoy a mix of different cultures as we participated in our common interest of hiking.”

Nelson (April 2011) - “A very wet, very busy weekend, WOW and the car museum is always interesting because the costumes on show keep changing, Founders Park and the steam train ride were very much enjoyed, the flight was pleasant both ways and we had good views and we did not land on the plane’s nose!”

Marlborough (September 2011) - “Five of us had a very enjoyable and fun visit, great weather, colourful flowers, visits to the Edwin Fox museum, Omaka and Okato, we ate too much, talked too much and even when the plane broke down, our enthusiasm was not dampened.”
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

2008  Gold Coast, Australia
“Sixteen countries represented, 44 members from NZ including eight members from our club. The opening plenary sessions focussed on FFI and the next generation exchanges, clubs and hosting, with workshops on club web page design, a possible electronic flyer for our region, our memorable singing on the hotel stairway and a moving address by Mayor Ron Clarke (Olympic athlete).”

2010  Washington, USA
Alan and Mary Milne attended.

2011  Hamburg, Germany
None of our club members made it.

NEW ZEALAND CONFERENCES

2007  Wellington
“James Cook hotel, Debbie Powell FFI representative - first time to NZ, great entertainment. Final conference resolution: ‘This 23rd NZ conference congratulate FFI on celebrating its 30th birthday. We, the clubs and members in NZ, pledge our support and loyalty to the Friendship Force. We appreciate the efforts of the staff, the volunteers and the Board in the support they give to our Friendship Force organisation.’”

2008  Western Bay of Plenty
“Stephanie Foster was our dynamic motivational guest speaker (Olympic rower). Winning does not mean first place - winning means, on the day doing the very best that you can, it is about learning from a situation and applying that knowledge. Also age is not a number - it is a gathering of experience, maturity and knowledge. FFI was represented by Debbie Powell and Director Robin Mulholland from Adelaide. NZ Club memberships ranged from 17 to 130, average age is 69!”

2009  Marlborough
“George Brown from FFI together with Alan Milne, our new Director, new logo, badges, tee shirts, NZ Financial Service is up and running for transferring money to the USA, dinner theme was ‘Vintage’, the entertainment with the hanging frying pans defies description, our Mexican promotion for 2010 conference was warmly received and Eduardo did well!”
What a conference it was - all the planning that went into it paid off and everyone had a great time. The conference was a departure from others of recent times in that most members stayed on-site at El Rancho, and from comments we have heard, this added considerably to the camaraderie of the weekend. We looked great in our Fiesta ponchos and hats and set the tone for a friendly conference.

We opened on Friday night with a performance from Te Roopu Kapa Haka o Paekakariki which was a young Kapa Haka group who were saving to go to the Chatham Islands. Councillor Diane Ammundsen opened the conference as Mayor Jenny Rowan was unable to attend. Pinky Agnew, our guest speaker, was absolutely fantastic - everyone enjoyed her performance, although I don’t think we will be taking up her suggestion to change the name of Friendship Force to the Friendship Flock!!!

On Saturday morning Alan Milne spoke of the challenges facing the Friendship Force. This was followed by a presentation from Phill Simmonds of Simmonds Brothers who showed four short films that told the stories of local events and personalities, which were greatly enjoyed - so much so that many people bought the DVDs.

The highlight of conference on Saturday night was the Fiesta Dinner & Dance. Most people came dressed in costumes and entered into the spirit of the night - joining in the Macarena, the Chicken Dance, the Mexican Hat Dance and the Mexican Conga, all lead by Theresa Tufnail. The food was plentiful, interesting and varied, with a choice between European, Asian or African.

On Sunday morning Kathy Thomas, the FFI Representative who was attending our conference on behalf of CEO George Brown, spoke about ‘New Directions’. Entertainment was provided by Bob Walker, VP, Wellington FF, who tried to get us singing along in Spanish (not too successfully) but also sang from his repertoire of Spanish and Portuguese songs. Great job Bob!

During the course of conference ‘Eduardo’ (alias Alan Milne) ran several quizzes, which resulted in many members receiving prizes. The main prize of a weekend for two at the Quality Hotel in Wellington was won by Joyce Hislop of the Horowhenua club.

A BBQ lunch and sing-along rounded off a really enjoyable weekend. Comments included ‘Best conference ever - and I have been to nearly every one’; ‘I thoroughly enjoyed the weekend and am glad I came’; ‘You could tell this conference was well planned, nothing seemed to be forgotten’; and ‘The accommodation was brilliant’. It was with a trace of a tear and a lot of relief that we handed over to Howick for next year.
2010 CONFERENCE
“FRIENDSHIP FIESTA”

Welcome to the New Zealand Conference at Kapiti

‘Eduardo’ draws the raffle prize

Conference amigos Alan & Mary Milne

Graham & Theresa Tufnail at the Friendship Fiesta dinner
2011 Howick

George Brown, President of FF and Erin Zingales, liaison officer for NZ attended from Atlanta. Mayor Len Brown was a very impressive speaker and conveyed that he really understood the aims and goals of Friendship Force. Andy Dalton, ex All Black, was very enjoyable as he spoke of incidents in his career and there was great entertainment from young, up-and-coming artists and a very good band. We won the communication award for public speaking. We came away refreshed and enthusiastic.
2012

Nuts and Bolts day moved to St John’s Hall in Feilding, a much better venue. We were responsible for the games for the competition and these were rather different from usual and the participants seemed to enjoy the change. Thirteen of our club members attended.

Our FFI President/CEO, George Brown, announced his intention to stand down early next year after a total 23 of the last 30 years with FFI. George certainly changed the way we see the world.

2013

Joy deBenedetto was announced as FFI fifth President and CEO. She brings years of experience with international news agency CNN, and latterly as founder and CEO of HUM, Human Unlimited Media. We believe she has the skills and vision to lead our organisation into the future.

We celebrated World Friendship Day on 3rd March with a picnic at the Otaihanga Domain, at which we were joined by Wellington FF and their guests from Colombia Cascade FF.

Many NZ clubs adopted the Taupo Experience and embarked on very successful membership drives during this period, including our own club. With 30 new members resulting from the drive, our membership now stands at 90.

In July we held a Mexican-themed dinner for our club members, which was great fun.

Our club generously donated 500 pens, which were personally handed out at the New Orleans Conference to promote Auckland 2014.

The Board put on a Kiwi rendition of The Twelve Days of Christmas at our Christmas dinner in December.
Wayne Smith medals:

“What a pleasure and a privilege it was to present both Alan and Mary Milne with Wayne Smith Medals. Alan’s medal was sponsored by all the NZ FF clubs and was presented to him at the national conference in Mosgiel but we wanted to present it again in front of his own Club members. It recognises Alan’s contribution to the Friendship Force of New Zealand as well as internationally, and came as a complete surprise to Alan at conference - FFI are obviously good at keeping secrets! Mary’s medal was, of course, from our Club and recognises her enormous contribution to the Club over many years. We know both will wear their medals with pride, and it was wonderful to be able acknowledge them in this way.”

Mary & Alan Milne with their Wayne Smith Medals

2014

We have a brand new Club website.

Debbie Lattey is now NextGen Mentor for New Zealand working with an international team.

The International Conference in Auckland was a great success with all the New Zealand FF clubs being the hosts - the friendliest conference ever?

At the AGM, the Club adopted the new Constitution to replace that which had become out of date due to changes in legislation and FFI requirements.
2015
Debbie Lattey has been appointed the Lower North Island Field Rep, a first for our Club.

Our soup lunch was well attended and it was lovely to be able to present Mary and Alan Milne (now living in Taupo) with a plaque recognising the work and time they have put into the Club over many years.

Our FFI President/CEO Joy deBenedetto resigned, sad news as Joy had brought lots of new ideas and innovations. Also the head office is having to shift and the Board has approved the acquisition of a new website/data management system. Three major changes all at once will mean some disruption.

Beverley Taylor is now responsible for our Newsletter.

New FFI President/CEO Jeremi Snook has been appointed, effective November. Jeremi has a Master’s degree in Business Administration and brings with him both the experience of working as a senior executive in the non-profit sector as well as the experience of starting a small business that quickly earned him and his partner the Top 50 Fastest Growing Companies’ award. He worked successively with United Way, with the Uptown Emergency Shelter and most recently as Chief Operating Officer with Spaulding Youth Centre in Northfield, New Hampshire, a leading community-based provider of educational services for children with neurological or behavioural challenges. Most importantly, he has the values to embrace the mission that matters enormously to all of us. Executives who have worked with Jeremi Snook have all described him as a caring, can-do person who connects well with people from all walks of life, someone who values diversity and works collaboratively to achieve consensus.

2016
Our Club Board has prepared a ‘Code of Conduct’ for outward exchanges, as a guide for ambassadors to ensure they are aware of the expectations of the ED and their own responsibilities.

Our web page has had 8500 visits in two years, 48% from NZ, 39% from the USA and the remaining from UK, Australia, Germany, France, Italy, Japan and Spain.

37 members participated in our International Progressive lunch held on the Sunday of Anzac weekend, it was great to see such a good turnout with more than half our members participating and a good opportunity for older and newer members to get together.

And finally, a group of Board members worked hard on organising our club’s 30th anniversary party to be held on 12 November 2016. We hope you all have a great time celebrating with us and enjoy reading through our club’s history.
Bavaria-Nuernberg-Erlangen, Germany (February 2012) - “Mary, our ED, literally fell and broke her leg a couple of weeks before this exchange arrived and she was still in hospital in Melbourne but Reg stepped up brilliantly and took over. The planning was complete and included three free days, Kapiti Island, Mayoral reception and Otaki day including Raukawa Marae welcome, Mansell farm demonstrations, Nyco Chocolate factory, Prentzel shop and Waikanae school, floral art at Adriennes, Southwards, Tuatara Brewery and Paekakariki steam museum, Wellington day and a farewell dinner at the Paraparaumu Community Centre.”

Wairarapa (2012) - “Five came for the day and eight stayed overnight. We had a welcome pot luck lunch at Robins, followed by a fairly casual programme concluding with lunch at the Fisherman’s Table.”

Kauai, Hawaii, USA (November 2012) - “Nine ambassadors from Kauai, Perth, Adelaide, Ohio and Virginia. Ambassadors arrived by bus from Napier, and enjoyed a welcome pot luck lunch, fish and chip night, a Posh Nosh lunch at Mary and Alan’s, two dinner/barbeques with club members, days in Otaki (Rangiatea, Carl Lutz Ford tractor museum and Wellington, plus the farewell dinner at Waikanae Club). Our guest speaker on the final night was Laura Marsh, the wife of ED Frank, who recounted her experiences as an emergency responder attending San Francisco’s earthquake, New York’s 9/11 and other disasters. Although it was a small exchange and very much a faces-not-places event, more than 37 members participated in hostings, day hosting, lunches and the dinner/BBQs.”

Newcastle, Australia (April 2013) - “The Newcastle Club were a lively bunch of Aussies and thoroughly enjoyed their stay with us. Our guests took to the game of ‘underarm golf’ like veterans of the underarm game, our visit to the Marae was a new experience for all our ambassadors and followed lunch at The Winemaker’s Daughter and our visit to the Otaki churches, The introduction of the Feilding Sale Day was inspired - we will have to do that again. Seasons restaurant stepped in at the last minute for the farewell dinner - the food was wonderful and the service couldn’t have been better.”
Los Angeles, California, USA (October 2013) - “Fourteen ambassadors from Los Angeles, Canada and England flew in to Paraparaumu Airport. The official welcome at Debbie and Wilson’s home was followed by a showing of ‘Whale Rider’. Most attended the Rotary Art Show, a day in Wellington, the churches in Otaki, Murrayfield and Owlcatraz, then a day exploring Reikorangi. A very enjoyable week, they loved seeing so much green, and the warm hospitality.”

Hamilton-Waikato (April 2014) - “Sixteen ambassadors arrived on Friday evening, spent the next morning exploring our area, and then the afternoon welcome ‘Mad Hatter’s Tea Party’, a real dress up occasion for all, competition for men’s best hat and women’s hat least likely to be seen at Ascot! A game of croquet used soft toys and long handled window cleaning brooms!! Sunday to Southwards or the trams, Scarlet Cafe in Ohau, Lavender Creek farm and then pizza at the home of Lynn Voyce and Graham. Good to have newest members involved.”

Huntsville, Alabama, USA (November 2014) - “Twenty-one ambassadors arrived after a South Island tour and a South Taranaki home stay, they enjoyed home hosted lunches and dinners, local attractions, a Reikorangi day and a day in Wellington, and a farewell luncheon at the Waikanae Club.”

North Moreton, England (April 2015) - “The Club provided a wonderful lunch for a bus load from North Moreton on route to Wellington. It was a great opportunity to renew friendships made over there in 2010.”
Wanganui (May 2015) - “Here for the weekend, Nga Manu for the ladies and steam trains for the guys, pot luck dinner at Debbie and Wilson’s home, Te Horo markets and lunch in Otaki. Everyone enjoyed all that was on offer in Kapiti, as well as our company.”

Japan English Language exchange (September 2015) - “A joint project between Debbie Lattey and Tsuguyo Ishii, NextGen Mentors for NZ and Japan. Three clubs hosted 18 ambassadors for five nights each, each club organising four theme days which focussed on a different activity around which conversational language could be built. The first day was Games and Activities, day two focussed on Crafts, the next day was Māori culture and the final day was Food and cooking. Overall the exchange was very successful - the ambassadors were very enthusiastic and easy to entertain, and the feedback showed they thoroughly enjoyed the exchange and felt that their English improved greatly.”

Our English Language Exchange ambassadors loved the felted bears they made as part of their craft day

Teaching the Japanese some Maori poi movements during the English Language Exchange
Global Arts and Crafts Exchange (October 2015) - “We hosted a group of 13 ambassadors (11 from the USA, one Australian and one Canadian) from this exchange for lunch on their way north. They had been hosted by Nelson and Wellington clubs and had just been to see WOW, so were full of admiration for the event.”

Gold Coast, Australia (November 2015) - “Fourteen ambassadors arrived after five days in Taupo and two in Napier, next day they were welcomed with a pot luck lunch at Lynn and Graham Voyce’s home. Wellington day at Te Papa for the Gallipoli exhibition, along the wharves, up the cable car, gardens and train back for fish and chips at three homes. Up north for RJ’s Liquorice factory, Tendertips Asparagus Farm, Foxton horse drawn tram, the flax stripping machine (the only one working in the world), Owlcatraz and glow worms - a big day. A boys and girls local day and farewell dinner at the Kapiti Golf Club was combined with our Christmas celebrations.”

Whangarei (February 2016) - “Following three days in Wellington and the Edinburgh Tattoo, 20 ambassadors arrived for our annual combined Wellington/Kapiti picnic, it was a scorcher! Sunday saw several go to Kapiti Island and others visited Nga Manu and Southwards before a very successful barbeque at President Judy’s home. Monday was free and ended with fish and chips on the beach on a perfect evening. Off by train next morning.”

Freiburg, Germany (March 2016) - “Nine ambassadors were met at the Waikanae Railway station and taken to the welcome dinner at Graham and Theresa’s home, next day was to Feilding and the Farmers Market, Sale yards and Coach museum. We visited the open day at Southwards and had a BBQ picnic at Otaihanga Domain in perfect weather. Following a beautiful Wellington day, the next day Peter McChesney tried to take the ambassadors sailing but the sea was too rough and they had to return after an hour or so! So we took Diane’s bread rolls to Porirua and joined in a choir practice there! Next day was a visit to Kapiti Island and the farewell dinner at the Fisherman’s Table. We said our farewells at Waikanae to our now close friends as they went on - the German club was a credit to the FF family.”

Taipei, Taiwan (& Wairarapa) (May 2016) - “This exchange was to replace their planned exchange to Brazil which was cancelled due to the Zika virus. Kapiti joined Wairarapa, Taupo and Western Bay of Plenty to provide ten days of hosting. We hosted eight ambassadors for three nights. Went to Coastlands, The Woolshed for lunch, and the Chocolate Factory. Next day a long walk to Waikanae Beach, fish and chips, and a sing-along of children’s songs, at Lynette and Bruce’s home which was a lot of fun. The ambassadors went to Southwards on Saturday where they were joined by Wairarapa FF, then had a pot luck lunch at Debbie and Wilson’s home -there were 33 people and the food was delicious and plentiful. We even found time to teach each other Rummikub and Mahjong!”

Playing Giant Jenga with the Taiwanese exchange
Perth / Albany / Mt Barker, Australia (April 2012) - “Fifteen ambassadors from our club plus five more enjoyed the hot and fine Perth weather, bus tours of the city, Pinnaroo West Coast Highway, boat trip on the harbour and canals, then an eight hour trip by train to Bunbury and bus to Albany. Albany was a brand new club and we were their first exchange. Gun salute, Mayoral reception, bush outings, Museum for Indigenous Peoples and presentation, accordion band and bush poet. Then most of us went on to Mt Barker (25 km east of Adelaide) where we enjoyed an Aboriginal welcome with a Permaangk ‘Smoking Ceremony’, Victor Harbour, Torrens River tour on ‘Popeye’, shops and winery and home after a very well organised exchange.”

Sapporo / Saitama, Japan (Sept 2013) - “The two clubs were so welcoming and put on wonderful programmes. At Sapporo we visited the Hokkaido development village and museum, took a bus trip to Mt Toya and bathed in the hot springs, and ate lots of delicious Japanese food. South to Saitama by bullet trains, the bonsai museum, created our own works of art using a Japanese dyeing technique, sights of Tokyo including the Imperial Palace. Our welcome ceremony and cultural day included an Ikebana display, we were taught to write our names using calligraphy, paraded in our kimonos (and it took three women about thirty minutes to strap me in!) and listened to a performance of the Koto. We then spent two nights with the young people of the Mt Fuji Yamanashi Club and their children, which was a very different experience. We then spent three days in Kyoto and one day in Hiroshima as tourists. The overall feedback from the ambassadors was that the whole experience was wonderful and we were so impressed with Japan and its people. We were very well looked after and the whole cultural experience was what Friendship Force is all about.”
South Taranaki (Nov 2013) - “Twenty-three intrepid travellers spent a memorable three days in South Taranaki, with a stop over and tour of the Sargeant Gallery in Wanganui and on to Hawera. Our visit coincided with the Taranaki Spring Festival with many fine gardens on display. Saturday concluded with a pot luck dinner followed by lots of fun, singing and a keenly competed quiz. Sunday saw us at one of New Zealand’s gems - Taiwhiti Museum. Wonderful hospitality and careful planning by our South Taranaki hosts.”

Oxfordshire, England & Varel, Germany (May 2014) - “Oxfordshire, although only a small club and widely spread, excelled in their warmth and efficient hospitality. The English weather was fine and hot all the time, the countryside was fantastic, the churches, pubs and small towns were really special and so old. Sadly Debbie got very sick and missed a few days. Then via Heathrow (where Customs gave Wilson a hard time for his weapon of mass destruction - an electric toothbrush plus having a tube of toothpaste in his hand luggage - he nearly missed the flight!) and Hamburg by air and on to Varel by mini bus and a programme varied but not too strenuous and very enjoyable, with wonderful hosts and hospitality. The theme for the programme was historical from ancient burial mounds, Roman occupation, medieval churches and today. So much of interest to see.”

Napier (July 2014) - “Nineteen ambassadors enjoyed a wonderful weekend at the Winter Art Deco weekend, travelling by InterCity bus. The fun started on Friday night with dressing up 1920’s style for dinner and dancing. On Saturday we all met at the Art Deco shop to see the movie of the devastating earthquake in 1931, then the Art Deco walk which was very informative and enjoyable, followed by a ride in one of the magnificent vintage cars for a gold coin donation. We then dressed again to the nines for the Gramophone Gatsby at the Masonic Hotel, a fine meal while a wind up DJ was to spin some old 78s. The Farmers’ Market on Sunday and a pot luck lunch outside at Selini’s, and that night we had an evening meal in small groups with club members. If you were not there you missed a wonderful weekend.”
North Shore / Whangarei / Thames / Tauranga (March 2015) - “Eighteen enthusiastic ambassadors travelled by InterCity buses which were good but a little chilly. At each destination we were met by welcoming, smiling faces and a programme with a variety of cultural, historic, art and nature, and lots of hospitality. We found the Gold Card was useful in Auckland and out to Waiheke. Whangarei FF has many vintage car enthusiasts, and we went to Marsden Point oil refinery, and the Quarry gardens - wonderful range of tropical plants. Nature was to the fore in Thames – we visited the Miranda Shorebird centre, our hosts were very generous with their time and local knowledge. Tauranga gave us an insight into its early history with graphic illustrations of Māori/pakeha clashes at Gate Pa. It was great to become better acquainted with our own members and we enjoyed Mary Milne’s Easter eggs when she met the bus at Taupo.”

Nor Peru, Peru / Brazilia & Belem, Brazil (May 2015) - “Nor Peru were a lively bunch prepared to dance at the drop of a hat, different colour of tee shirt for every day so were always colour coordinated. No idea Peru was such a dry place, natural greenhouse conditions, we had tropical fruits we have never seen before. We had an audience with the Mayor and we were part of a parade through the streets, dressed in our smart NZ shirts and carrying our flag. Brasilia was very different, much older and more dignified, we stayed in a million dollar home with cheeky monkeys. The city is a perfectly planned city, completed in 1958 and looks just as futuristic today. Belem is a very interesting city with streets and parks shaded by Mango trees - you can insure against Mango damage. Our home was in a gated community (security was very evident in each of our hostings) and Belem is on the Amazon River and is famous for its fish. Our eight travelling companions were great people and we had a lot of fun.”

Newcastle / Hobart, Australia (November 2015) - “A Friendship Force exchange allows you the opportunity to meet friendly, positive people who delight in showing you the best features of their hometown, and the itineraries for the cities of Newcastle and Hobart provided a great range of activities. We were exposed to convict life and notorious prisons, and nature in the form of water, trees and animals, although many of us looked in vain whenever we saw signs indicating Platybus, Wallabies, or Tasmanian Black Devil. We did however see a Koala in the wild, the ancient Huon pine trees, impressive waterfalls, river cruises, deep caves. Food, glorious food - it was there in abundance! The best eating experience was during a stopover after we had walked out to the Tourvil Lighthouse. The bus pulled up beside a small wooden building where we ate plates of fresh oysters and mussels! They were harvested fresh each morning. We walked the Newcastle Memorial Walk, completed in time for the 100th anniversary of Gallipoli, it is an elevated stainless steel structure, an impressive memorial to the 4000 men and women of the Hunter Valley who served during WW1.”

Lunch at Thermal Springs Reserve, Hobart
Raleigh, North Carolina / Hartford, Connecticut, USA & Quebec City, Canada (September/October 2016) - “This exchange included 12 members of the Kapiti club, 5 from other New Zealand clubs, and 2 from Huntsville, Alabama. It comprised three hostings of a week each.

Our first stop was two nights in Houston, Texas, where we were met by members of the Houston club and hosted for the day. They arranged a free Council bus to take us around the city to see the sights, and we all had dinner together at the end of the day. It was a lovely day and the club’s hospitality was very much appreciated.

Our first week with the Raleigh club was wonderful, they took us all around the city and environs and we were really impressed with the sights we saw, particularly the amazing universities in Raleigh. The highlight of the visit for some of us was the Bluegrass Festival which was on that weekend – real toe-tapping fun. Even the statue of local hero Sir Walter Raleigh was dressed up for the occasion. The whole exchange was very busy and most enjoyable.

Our second week was with the Quebec club, and again we were treated to a whole plethora of amazing sights. Quebec City is beautiful, being sited on the St Lawrence River, and has a rich history which we explored with our hosts. Again we were treated to a very full programme of sights and ate many and varied cuisines.

The third week of the exchange was in Hartford, Connecticut, with very welcoming, friendly hosts who provided a relaxing but informative programme for us. We learnt a lot of history as we listened to stories about Hartford’s heroes and people like Mark Twain. We enjoyed the colour around us as we drove to a winery, and we enjoyed being taken to lakes and rivers.

We had the pleasure of being led by Reg and Rob on their ukuleles as we entertained our hosts when we arrived at each exchange and at each farewell dinner. This was greatly appreciated by all of our hosts. We are sure our time in Raleigh, Quebec and Hartford has resulted in new lifelong friendships. Both the Hartford and Quebec clubs have asked if they can come on reciprocal exchanges in 2018, and we look forward to meeting up with our new friends again then and showing them our beautiful part of the world.”
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

2012  Hiroshima, Japan
Alan Milne attended this conference along with Colin and Janet Ridge. An emotional experience and a very appropriate venue for Friendship Force, a true centre for Peace in the World.

2013  New Orleans, Louisiana, USA
Alan and Mary Milne attended and made every effort to promote next year’s conference, including personally handing out the pens donated by our Club and showing the promotional DVD with Alan’s live commentary.

2014  Auckland, New Zealand
“Seven members of our club attended the World Conference in Auckland. A total of 300 delegates, about half of whom were Kiwis. It was a great success, with many participants saying it was the best World Conference they’ve been to. That’s a real pat on the back for the hard working organising team, led by our Patron, Alan Milne and including Debbie Lattey and Mary Milne from our club.

The opening featured a Powhiri and Kapa Haka from a Māori group called Haka the Legend Ltd, and they put on an excellent performance including a brilliant haka. Auckland’s Deputy Mayor Penny Hulse officially opened the conference, then followed official business and workshops.

The second day started with a very New Zealand theme. Pinky Agnew, who is always an excellent entertainer, had the audience in stitches - she renamed our organisation the Friendship Flock and explained to our overseas guests the meaning of some Kiwi slang. Pinky was followed by three students from Epsom Girls Grammar who spoke on NZ past, present and future - they were excellent. Grant Sidaway from Senior Net spoke about keeping up with technology - Grant is a really entertaining speaker who went on to run a workshop on social networking later in the day. His 3D printer was fascinating.

A real treat for delegates was the evening’s Sing-Along Musical Mystery Evening which featured a new take on the story of Cinderella, with CEO Joy as Cinderella and Matthew Nidek as Prince Charming. It was a hilarious evening and greatly enjoyed by everyone.

Alan Milne chaired the 2014 International Conference
Joy deBenedetto laid out FFI’s strategic plan to the plenary session the next morning, talking about plans to set FFI on a sustainable course. Cecile Latour from Canada gave a presentation on NextGen, outlining what this initiative involves, and Debbie spoke about our proposed first NZ NextGen exchange and invited other clubs to take part. There were a number of excellent workshops during the conference, many of them focussed on moving FF forward into the future and all were well attended. The Gala Banquet featured the NZ Navy Band, who were wonderful and had everyone up on the floor dancing. It was a great evening and a fitting end to the conference.”

2015  **Vancouver, Canada**

“500 delegates with Debbie and Wilson Lattey attending from our Club. It was strange without Joy deBenedetto present as she was attending a leadership conference back in Atlanta. Cecile Latour, chairperson of the FFI Board, explained that the finances are not healthy with a projected deficit of $80,000, principally due to cancelled and low number exchanges, but also because of the need to upgrade the website. Overall it was a really good conference and there was a lot of enthusiasm amongst those present to do whatever is necessary to ensure our organisation continues to thrive. The changes this year will be difficult but there was a lot of positive energy amongst the staff and members.”

2016  **Marrakesh, Morocco**

None of our club members were able to attend this conference.
NEW ZEALAND CONFERENCES

2012  South Taranaki

“FFI leaders were Kathy Thomas and Matthew Nidek who energetically and enthusiastically presented the challenges of the next three years, workshops on the FFI web site and membership with updates on the work of the Board and the Wayne Smith medal. We had eight members present.”

All dressed up for the 2012 Conference dinner

2013  Otago

“Seven of us attended. Alan spoke at the conference about the International Conference in October 2014 which is being hosted by all the FF clubs in New Zealand, and will be held in Auckland. There were good workshops on Taupo’s membership drive, club leadership, social media and running exchanges. George Brown is retiring from FF and it was decided that a suitable parting gift from NZFF would be a possum/merino jersey, and each club contributed $20 towards this gift. Mosgiel was a great effort for a small club.”
2014 Manawatu

“Eleven members of our club attended and we were delighted to meet Joy deBenedetto, our new President/CEO, who spoke of her ideas for taking FFI into the future. We were inspired by Professor Swee Tan who spoke of his amazing work in plastic surgery. Suzanne Andrews spoke of her work with women in the slums of Bangkok and Grant Sidaway spoke of changes in technology - our desktop PCs are dinosaurs! The international theme of the dinner was an opportunity for us to dust off our Mexican hats and ponchos from 2010 and we won the best team costume prize. Conference was great fun and a chance to catch up with friends from other clubs. We missed out on the prize for club growth, Napier increased by 31% and we only managed 30% - c’est la vie.”

![Image of people in Mexican costumes]

Our club won Best Costume at the 2014 National Conference in Manawatu. The award was presented by CEO Joy deBenedetto.

2016 New Plymouth

“A small team of elite FF Kapiti Coast members (Alan and Mary Milne, Diana Bradshaw, Debbie Lattey, Allan and Bev Taylor) pitted their considerable wits and knowledge in a Mastermind type competition and won the bone trophy. Unfortunately the real trophy had been left in Taupo, but fortunately an alternative was at hand - we were presented with an old sack and we wondered about its contents. Turned out Daisy the old cow had died in a conference organiser’s paddock and a beautifully beribboned bone was our new trophy! The Presidents and Leaders meeting was a good opportunity to discuss financial matters and the use of the National Treasurer, a Field Rep levy, Insurance levy and changing to a more interactive website. At the Leadership Seminar our new President/CEO Jeremi Snook outlined the new FFI Board structure and duties - this will bring greater efficiencies - for example a fund raising group has been established. Other issues discussed included non-members on exchanges, health and mobility issues, improving inbound exchanges and the new strategic plan.”
CONCLUSION

The Club has a great history, and our members have had wonderful experiences over the years. We have been culturally challenged, we have enjoyed very different foods, we have gained friends across the globe, and the Friendship Force has certainly changed the way we see the world.

FRIENDSHIP RING

Let’s all join hands in friendship for everyone to see
Remember that a stranger is just a friend to be
Hold fast your hands in friendship for many years to come
This friendship ring will always bring good fun for everyone

Within this ring of friendship let’s try to understand
The difference in our cultures, our faiths and in our lands
So spread the news by showing, wherever you may be
Good friends are few but always true, especially you and me.
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<td>Richmond, Virginia / North Carolina, USA</td>
<td>Barry Blake</td>
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<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>Columbia Cascade / Olympia, Washington, Omaha, Nebraska, USA</td>
<td>Ria Erskine</td>
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<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>April</td>
<td>Hawera, NZ</td>
<td>Merv Robinson</td>
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<td>April</td>
<td>Manawatu, NZ</td>
<td>Ria Erskine</td>
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<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>Tucson, Arizona / Binghamton, New York, USA / Hamburg, Germany</td>
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<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>June</td>
<td>Wairarapa, NZ</td>
<td>Allen Wigmore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>Mt Gambia / Adelaide, Australia</td>
<td>Mary Milne</td>
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<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>Shizuoka / Machida, Japan</td>
<td>Val Main (Wanganui)</td>
</tr>
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<td>2000</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>Denver / Columbia Cascades, USA / Penticton, Canada</td>
<td>Margaret Walton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>Newcastle / Glass House Mountains, Australia</td>
<td>Col Bailey</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>April</td>
<td>Jundiai / Porte Alegre, Brazil</td>
<td>Reg Clother</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>Hamilton / Tauranga, NZ</td>
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<td>2002</td>
<td>April</td>
<td>Casterton / Mount Barker, Australia</td>
<td>Ria Erskine</td>
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<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>Nelson / Marlborough, NZ</td>
<td>Reg Clother</td>
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<td>2003</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>Wairarapa, NZ</td>
<td>Graham and Betty Gatwood</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>Tamworth / Queanbeyan, Australia</td>
<td>Jeanette Foote</td>
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<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>Wanganui, NZ</td>
<td>Margaret &amp; Leicester Walton</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>Minnesota-Twin Cities, Minnesota / Lincoln, Nebraska / Oklahoma, USA</td>
<td>Ivan Ryniker</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>New Plymouth, NZ</td>
<td>Eve Olsson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>Melbourne / Bundaburg, Australia</td>
<td>Jan Reid</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>Napier, NZ</td>
<td>Eve Olsson</td>
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<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>Prague, Czech Republic / Hanover, Germany</td>
<td>Jeanette Foote</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>April</td>
<td>Noumea, New Caledonia / Gold Coast, Australia</td>
<td>Mary Milne</td>
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</table>
# Outward Exchanges 1987 - 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<th>Club/S</th>
<th>Exchange Director/S</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>March</td>
<td>Taupo, NZ</td>
<td>Eve Olsson</td>
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<tr>
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<td>September</td>
<td>North Bay, Canada / Charlottesville, Virginia, USA</td>
<td>Jan Reid</td>
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<td>September</td>
<td>West Waikato/Rotorua/Gisborne/Napier</td>
<td>Joyce Gibson</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>North Moreton / Central Coast, Australia &amp; Malang, Indonesia</td>
<td>Vic Olsson</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>April</td>
<td>Nelson, NZ</td>
<td>Jan Reid</td>
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<td>September</td>
<td>Marlborough, NZ</td>
<td>Jan Reid</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>April</td>
<td>Perth / Albany / Mt Barker, Australia</td>
<td>Graham Tufnail</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>Sapporo / Saitama, Japan</td>
<td>Debbie Lattey</td>
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<td>November</td>
<td>South Taranaki, NZ</td>
<td>Robin Clarke &amp; Brian Tyler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>Oxfordshire, England / Varel, Germany</td>
<td>Graham Tufnail</td>
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<td>July</td>
<td>Napier, NZ</td>
<td>Joyce Gibson &amp; Joy Sloan</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>March</td>
<td>North Shore / Whangarei / Thames / Tauranga</td>
<td>Beth Lough</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>May</td>
<td>Nor Peru, Peru &amp; Brasilia / Belem, Brazil</td>
<td>John Durnford (Wellington)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>November</td>
<td>Newcastle / Hobart, Australia</td>
<td>Adrienne Burleigh</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>September-October</td>
<td>Raleigh, North Carolina / Hartford, Connecticut, USA &amp; Quebec City, Canada</td>
<td>Debbie Lattey &amp; Jan Reid</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
I would like to express our collective thanks to the following people who contributed to the creation of this club history:

- Alan Milne for the many hours spent researching and writing our story;
- Club members who contributed photos
- And special thanks to Kate Lattey for an amazing job laying out and typesetting this book.

Debbie Lattey
Editor

CONTACT DETAILS

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Debbie Lattey - debbie@otaihanga.co.nz