Journey No. 20021 Friendship Force of Raleigh, USA to Friendship Force of Kapiti Coast  
17 - 23 March 2020 departing 24 March  

Trip Report

FF Raleigh had two further clubs to visit as part of this journey – FF North Moreton and FF Tweed Valley.

On Friday 13 March joint co-ordinator B. Taylor had a telephone discussion with North Moreton co-ordinator R. Heales. He advised that most of their hosts were currently in Sri Lanka and he could not guarantee their return home unaffected by the Covid-19 virus. He had made the decision to cancel their hosting.

A suggestion was made by Field Rep co-ordinator Debbie Lattey that we could ask our travel agent, Susanne, to put together a tour of the South Island or somewhere in NZ for the group, to take the place of their cancelled trip to Australia. We were not prepared to do that and with great reluctance, the co-ordinators made the decision to cancel this visit.

B. Taylor phoned co-ordinator Donna Steele to advise of the decision. Donna stated that, in her opinion, it was the right one as 6 Ambassadors had pulled out in the last couple of hours.

12 hours later PM Adern stated the requirement for all visitors/returning kiwis to self-isolate for 14 days, so the programme could not have proceeded.

As there was another group stranded in Auckland it was tentatively suggested by FFI that perhaps they could join the FF Raleigh group in Kapiti. They were supposed to stay with Whangarei who had cancelled the hosting. It was not possible to assist.

Two of the Ambassadors who were part of the FF Raleigh visit – Eleanor and Keith Schubert from Seattle – were already in NZ. They were made welcome and hosted for a few days by co-ordinators A & B Taylor and were able to see most of the sights in the programme, both in Kapiti and Wellington.

In view of the cancellation of Journey No. 20021 and the only expenditure from the Hosting fees being for printing of the programmes, Treasurer P. Canvin was requested to reimburse the fees less that small amount.

B. & A. Taylor

20 March 2020