

A Journey Down Under

Friendship Force Journeys
to Australia and New Zealand

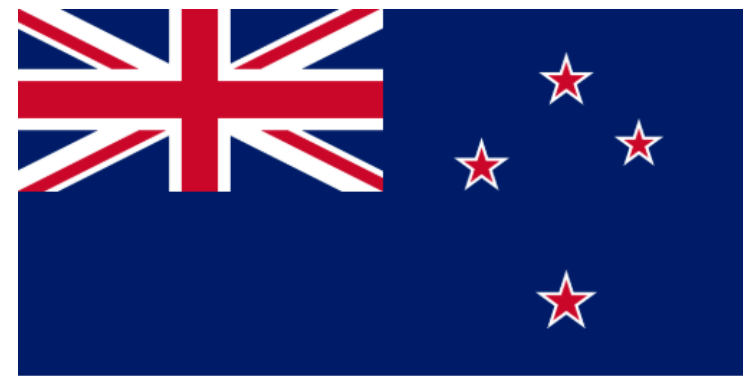
April 23 - May 8, 2025

(Apr 16 – May 16)

Presentation to the FF Club,
Sarasota

March 31, 2026

Abe
and
Neal





Mt Barker is 25 miles SE of Adelaide
Whanganui is 120 miles N of Wellington

Ambassadors
on journeys to
Australia and New
Zealand

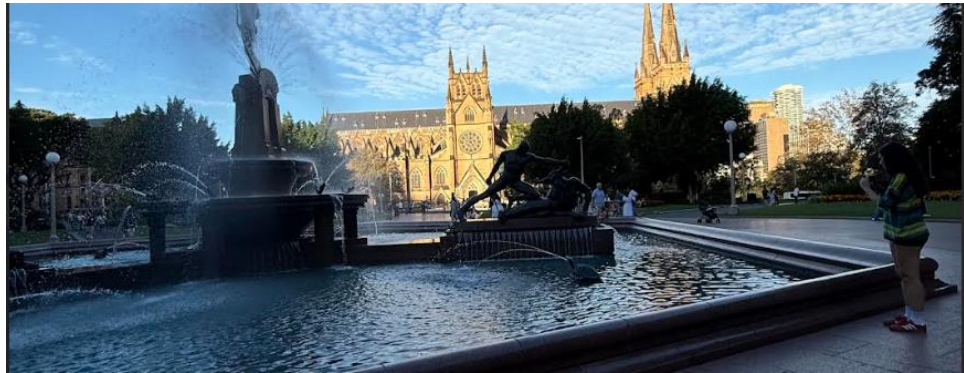
Abe	Sarasota, Florida
Susan	Sarasota, Florida
Roman Rasu	Whitby, Ontario, Canada
Candis	Punta Gorda, Florida
Marion	Oldsmar, Florida
Neal	Sarasota, Florida
Judi	Sarasota, Florida
Madeleine	Orlando, Florida
Gina	Sarasota, Florida
Trinidad	Tallahassee, Florida

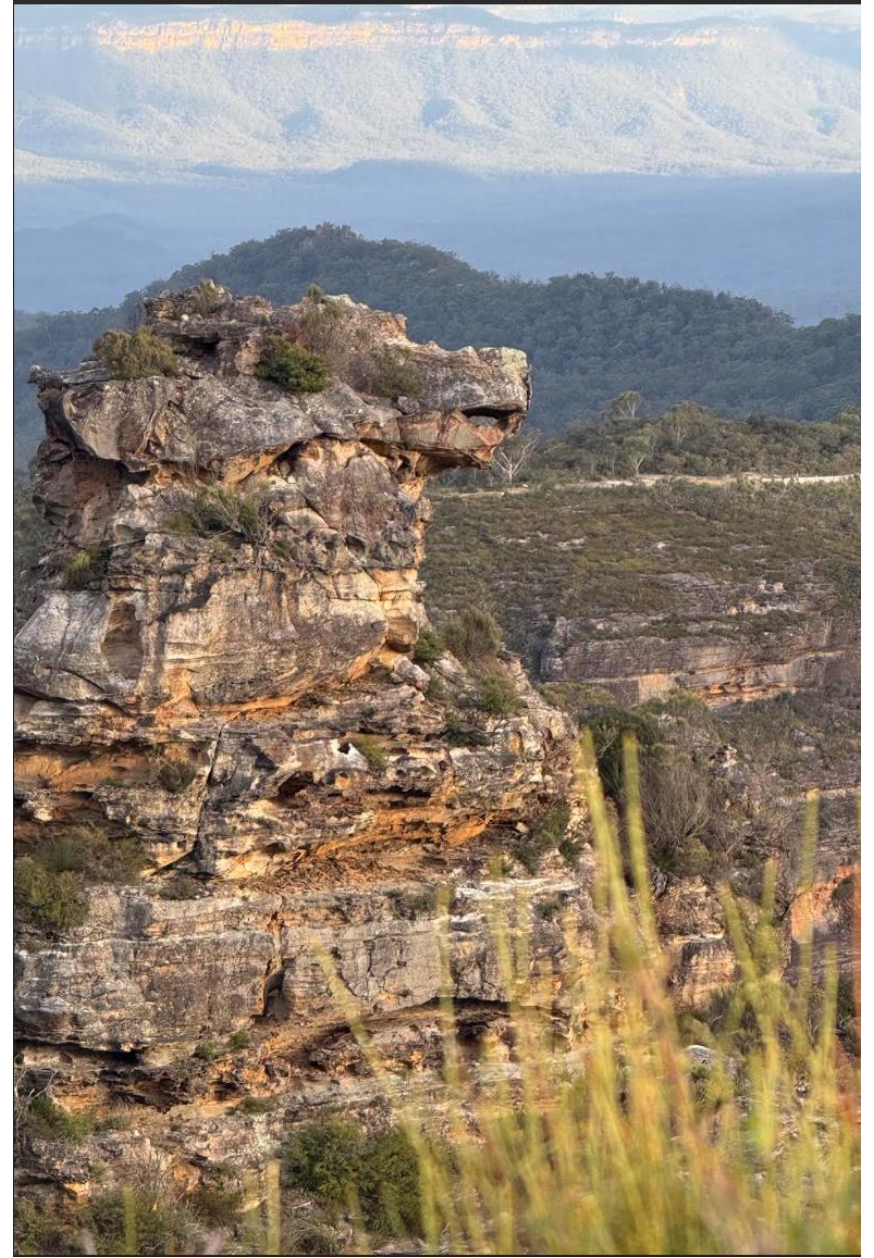
Cleared eye and
bushy tailed
arrival in Sydney





Highlights of Sydney and the Blue Mountains







We get together with members of the 2 Sydney FF clubs

Sightseeing at Manly Beach with Sydney club members



The Mt Barker Club



The Mt Barker and Districts Friendship Force began in 1982 and was the first club formed in Australia and has been instrumental in assisting in the formation of other clubs both here in SA in and inter-state.

Presently, the club has approximately 40 members and they come from the district extending to regions beyond Mt. Barker in the Adelaide Hills and Fleurieu Peninsula, making up a diverse group of people who enjoy travelling and the experiences of getting to know different people and their cultures. We plan to have 2 international inbound journeys annually, and often welcome a domestic journey as well. Our outbound journeys usually consist of an annual domestic journey and a biannual international one. Club meetings are held bi-monthly on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Meetings may be held at various locations but mainly in Mt Barker. We 're

not just about travel and journeys but also organize a varied local social programme including our monthly coffee mornings.

[Web Page](#)

 **friendship force**
Mt Barker & Districts Inc.



Welcomes
 **friendship force**
SARASOTA



Wednesday April 23rd to 30th 2025

**a world of friends
is a world of peace**

The Programme

**Wednesday
April 23**

878 Dashwood
Gully Road
Meadows

Ambassadors arrive Adelaide Airport, last arrival 1.55 pm

Welcome Function, 5.00pm for 5.30pm start.
Aussie BBQ at "Thorpe's Farm".

**Thursday
April 24**

68 Heysen Rd
Hahndorf
Look for sign
to turn.



A day in Hahndorf.

Cedars/Hans Heysen Studio 10:00am

Guided tour of Studio, Home, Artist's Walk and Garden.
Heysen Sculpture Biennial display at the same venue.

Stroll around Hahndorf and lunch of own choice

Beerenberg 2:30pm

Owned and operated by the Paech family for over 200 years.
Enjoy a family talk and Devonshire tea with choice of tea, coffee, juice or softie



Mt Barker Road
Hahndorf

**Friday
April 25**



Anzac Day, Free Day

**Saturday
April 26**

Bald Hills Rd
Mt Barker



Laratinga Wetlands 9:30am

The District's environmental 'Jewel in the Crown'.
Talk and Walk followed by coffee or tea.

Nepenthe Cellar Door 12:30pm - 2:00pm

Enjoy a tasting in your own seated space, with one of their knowledgeable team members to guide you through a customised & guided wine tasting. Platters included. Casual drinks available.



93 Jones Rd
Balhanna

**Sunday
April 27**

39 Commercial
Rd, Strathalbyn



Visit the Fleurieu Peninsula.

The Vault, Strathalbyn 9:30am

Coffee/Cake of choice to start the day.

**Sunday
April 27**

Goolwa Warf



SA Wooden Boats Festival

Wooden boats, vintage sailing yachts, traditional riverboats, putt putts, steam boats, clinker boats, rowing boats, canoes and model boats on display. Talk to the owners and hear their stories.

7 Cadell St
Goolwa



Goolwa Hotel, 1:00pm

Choice of 2 roasts and desert. Fish & vegetarian available.

**Monday
April 28**

Dutton Rd
Mt Barker



Adelaide City.

Catch free T800 bus from Dutton Road
Park 'n' Ride to the city.

Meet at 9:15am for 9:30am journey.

Visit choice of interest of **Parliament of South Australia, SA Museum, Art Gallery, State Library of South Australia.**

Cafe lunch of choice.

North Tce
Adelaide



Adelaide Botanic Gardens, 1:30pm

Meet at the Botanic Gardens to view the glass sculptures of the world's most celebrated contemporary glass artist, Dale Chihuly.

**Tuesday
April 29**

30 Redden
Dr, Cudlee
Creek



Gorge Wildlife Park, 10:00am

See favourite Australian animals such as wombats, dingoes, echidnas and Tasmanian Devils. Birds and reptiles too. Walk among and feed kangaroos and wallabies.

11:30am: Cuddly encounter with a Koala and take your own photographs.

210 Ironstone Rd
Echunga

Farewell Function, 5:00pm

At the Barnetts. Choice of pizzas.

**Wednesday
April 30**

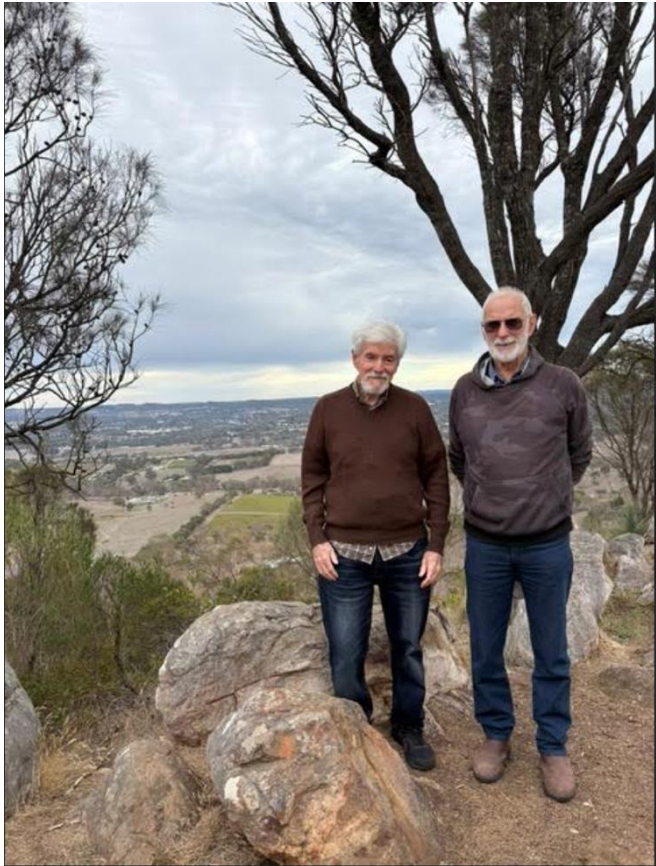
Ambassadors to Adelaide Airport for 11:15am check in.



We would like to acknowledge the Peramangk people, the traditional owners of the land upon which we meet today. We respect their spiritual relationship with their country and acknowledge that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still as important to those living with us today. We pay our respects to their Cultures and to the Elders both past and present.

Welcome Aussie barbeque





Mt Barker Home Hosts and Ambassadors

Strawberry Farm afternoon tea with some of our hosts



WELCOME TO THE
BEERENBERG
FAMILY FARM

...EXIT ONLY...



Anzac Day (Apr 25 – Commemorates all who served and died in military operations in Australia and New Zealand)



Ambassadors taking out hosts to dinner at Vietnamese Restaurant in Mt Barker



Laratinga Wetlands



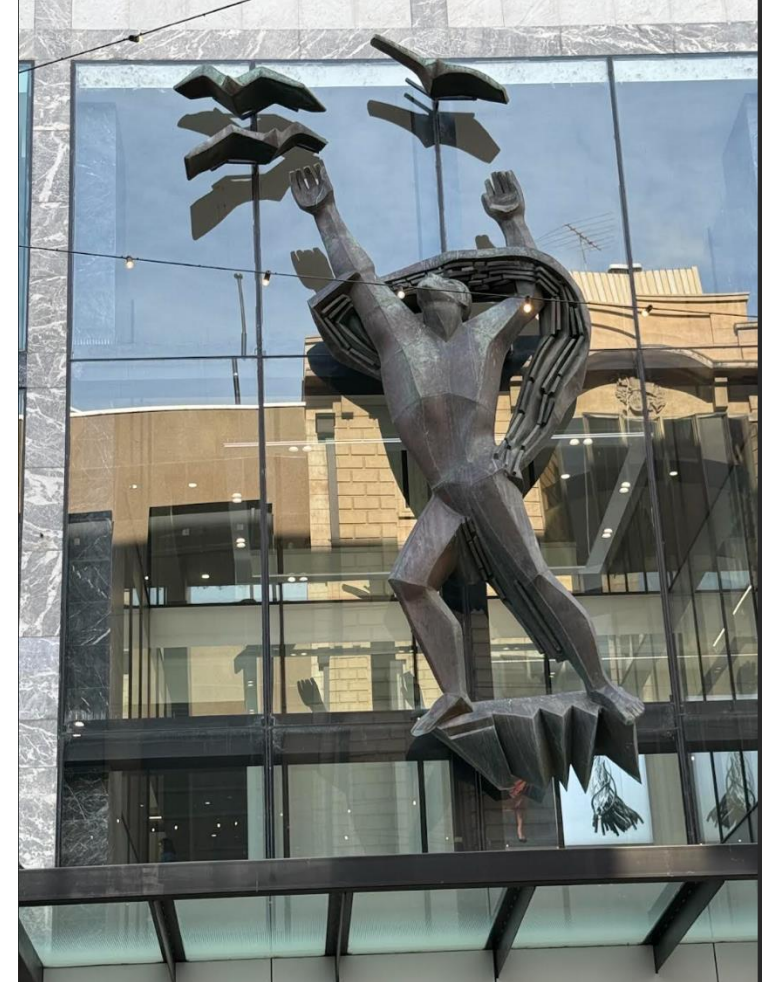


Wine tasting at the Nepenthe Cellar Door in the Adelaide Hills



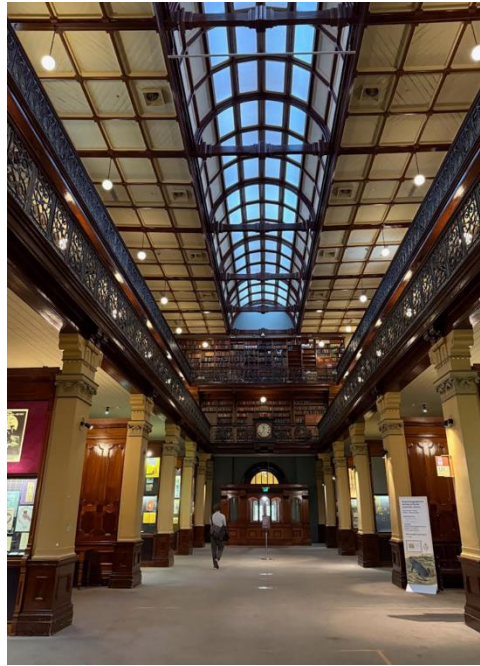


A day sightseeing in Adelaide





South Australia Museum, Adelaide

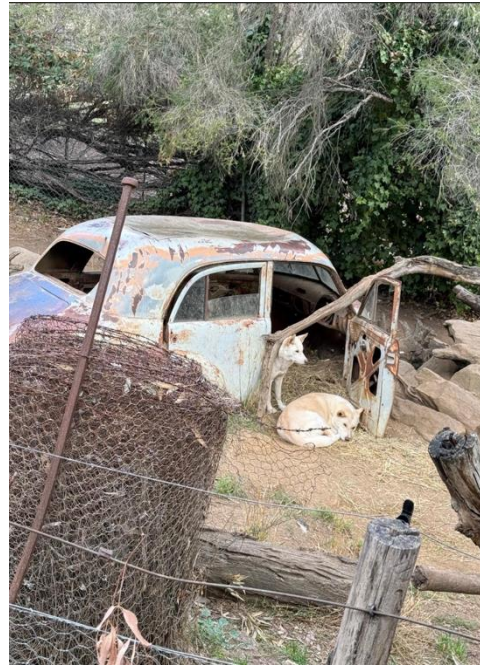




Botanical Gardens, Adelaide



Gorge Wildlife Park











Abe hosted by Phil and Julie Barnett



Robyn Starcic and another woman.

...and Robyn Starcic.
 members
 ...association congratulated Jo
 ...for their dedication
 ...association with life
 ...general meeting.
 ...chair of the Seniors
 ...at least 13 seasons,
 ...ing the traditional
 ...7, grading,
 ...times. She is
 ...and has been
 ...ted a Women
 ...gh Tennis SA.
 ...nator
 ...trophies,
 ...ution. She
 ...er the
 ...1-week
 ...still
 ...ylor

'A world of friends is a world of peace'

THE Mt Barker & Districts Friendship Force recently hosted 11 fellow members from Sarasota, Florida.

Friendship Force groups were formed for cultural exchange and the fostering of friendship across cultures with homestay journeys.

Local group secretary Julie Barnett said members also enjoy regular coffee mornings, movie nights and local outings.

The US visitors were taken to visit one of the area's environmental highlights, the Laratinga Wetlands, led by Emma Montgomery from the Mt Barker Council.

Ms Barnett said the Sarasota group enjoyed a Devonshire tea at Beerenberg Farm and got to hear the story of the company founders, the Paech family.

They also visited The Cedars, Nepenthe cellar door, the SA Wooden Boats Festival, Chihuly in the Adelaide Botanic Gardens and the Gorge Wildlife Park where "koala cuddling is always a favorite with international guests".

RIGHT:
 US visitors at Beerenberg Farm: Madeleine Taub, left, Trinidad Weaver, Judi Stratton, Candis Penley, Sue Elwyn, Gina Thomas, Abe Lederman, Neil Schleifer, Marion Ruuge-Aronson, Romanas Galinauskas and Rasu Rosario.



The group at Laratinga Wetlands, led by environmental project officer Emma Montgomery. Jan de Weerd, left, Barbara Mott, Neil Schleifer, Raelene Thorpe, Marion Ruuge-Aronson, Alice Foster, Judi Stratton, Gina Thomas, Abe Lederman, Madeleine Taub, Romanas Galinauskas, Candis Penley, Rasu Rosario, David Adams, Trinidad Weaver, Julie Barnett, Sue Elwyn and Emma Montgomery.



CASH COLUMN
 Turn unwanted items
 into cash. Deadline.
 9.30am Tuesdays.
 Ph. 08 8391 1388
 www.courier.net.au

Who knew! Wellington is the world's windiest city! (May 1, 2025)

'Threat to life': Wellington wind warning at highest 'red' level



The wind warning in Wellington has been escalated to red, with MetService warning of "destructive" winds that would cause widespread damage.

There was a possibility of "threat to life" from falling trees and other items and could be significant disruption to transport, and power supply, the warning says.

People should stay inside or seek shelter away from trees.

The forecaster's Mount Kaukau weather station in Wellington was no longer working after wind gusts of up to 150km/h.

Roofing iron has lifted off properties in Petone in Lower Hutt, the Wellington suburb of Brooklyn and the central city, Fire and Emergency said. Crews had multiple callouts for trees falling on power lines.

Wētā Workshop, Wellington Worked on Lord of the Rings, Avatar and Dune





On a tour of
New
Zealand
Parliament in
Wellington

The Manawatu/Whanganui Club



The Whanganui club was the first Friendship Force Club in NZ and was formed in 1983. Following the pandemic it merged with the Manawatu club. The combined club has about 30 members.

[Facebook Page](#)



friendship force

The Friendship Force
of
Manawatu/Whanganui

Extends a warm welcome to the incoming

Friendship Force
Sarasota, Florida Journey

3 May — 8 May 2025

Journey Number 25230



Manawatu Programme

Saturday 3 May

12.30 pm Meet the bus from Wellington in PN Square.
Then soup and buns at Lett's house, at
427A Ruahine Street, .
Ambassadors home with Hosts.

Sunday 4 May

10.00 am Drive to Massey/IPU/Windmill.
12.00 pm Have lunch in Woodville.
Drive to Pukaha by 3pm (Kaka Feeding)
Evening Home with Hosts.

Monday 5 May - Combined with Whanganui

10.00 am Visit to the Council Chambers for a short Mayoral
welcome and the Stained-Glass Windows viewing.
From there a walk down the Avenue for a quick
coffee stop at Victoria Café, then carry on down
with time enough to "window shop".
11.30 pm The Rutland for a welcome lunch.
1.30 pm Museum for a "Taonga Maori Highlights Tour".
Then over to the Durie Hill tunnel and elevator
to the lookout.
Ambassadors take hosts out for a meal.



Tuesday 6 May—Feilding Day

10.30 am Robotic farm.
12.00 pm Visit Friendship Rock.
12.30 pm Lunch at Beyond Coffee in the Square (upstairs)
2.00 pm Coach House Museum
Home with Hosts.

Wednesday 7 May—Foxton Day

Am Shopping/Packing
2.00 pm Meet at the Estuary lookout for a talk about
Estuary/godwits.
6.30 pm Meet at Stewart & Elizabeth's for a
Fish & Chip meal.

Thursday 8 May

Ambassadors leave. Some fly out at 7.00 am.
Others by bus at 10.00 am,

NB. This timetable may change due to weather conditions on the day.



Whanganui Programme

Saturday 3 May

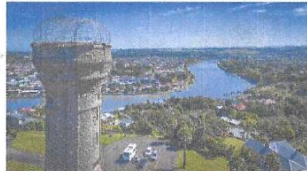
2.30 pm Arrive at Inter City depot, Taupo Quay.
Evening with hosts.

Sunday 4 May

11.00 am A trip on the Waimarie.
1.00 pm Board "Mabel" for a tram ride to Mud Ducks
for lunch.

Monday 5 May - Manawatu will spend the day here.

10.00 am Visit to the Council Chambers for a short Mayoral
welcome and the Stained-Glass Windows viewing.
From there a walk down the Avenue for a quick
coffee stop at Victoria Café, then carry on down
with time enough to "window shop".
11.30 pm The Rutland for a welcome lunch.
1.30 pm Museum for a "Taonga Maori Highlights Tour".
Then over to the Durie Hill tunnel and elevator
to the lookout.
Ambassadors take hosts out for a meal.



Tuesday 6 May

9.03 am Meet at I-Site to begin our Tiki Tour around the
City.
Look through I-Site then on to NZ Glass,
Handspan, Art Gallery.
12.30 pm Lunch at "Mint" Café.
Afterwards drive across town to St John's Hill
Lookout, Winter Gardens, Virginia Lake and
Visit anything else of interest e.g. Castlecliff
Beach, North Mole.
Evening At home perhaps fish and ships/pies/takeaways.

Wednesday 7 May

10.00 am Morning tea at "Pukeko's Nest" then out to Bushy
Park for a walk through the bush.
Travel to Mowhanau Beach and picnic (lunch
provided) at Bason Botanical Gardens.
Evening Farewell dinner at "Caroline's" Restaurant Bar
& Café.

Thursday 8 May

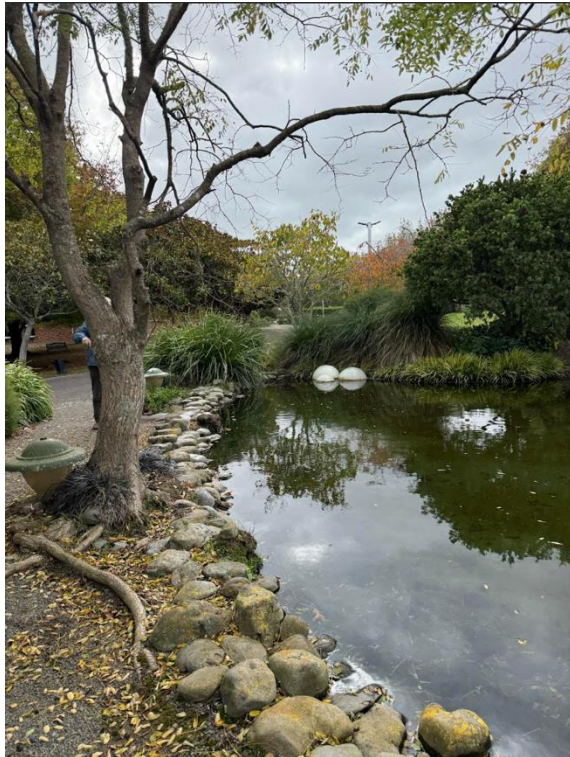
12.45 pm Depart Palmerston North Airport to Auckland.

NB. Changes to the programme may occur due to inclement weather etc.

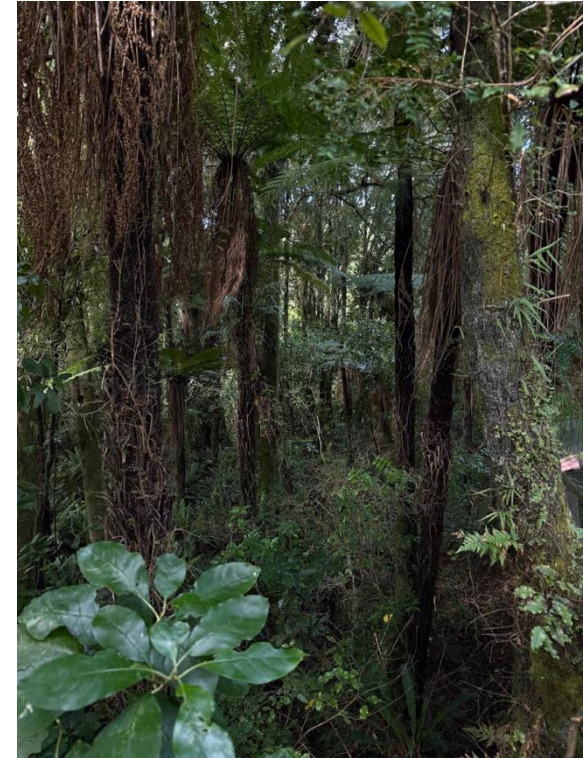
Touring Massey University



and then IPU (Institute of the Pacific United)



National Wildlife Center in Pukaha





BIRTHDAY PARTIES
Celebrate your special day with a party at Pūkana. We have a dedicated room for your celebration. Contact us for more information.

PŪKANA
Pūkana is a community center offering a range of services and activities for our members. We are committed to providing a warm and welcoming environment for all.

Pūkana

Kiwi, the New Zealand National Bird

The kiwi bird's specialties include being the only bird with nostrils at the tip of its beak, giving it a powerful sense of smell to find food; its fur-like feathers and whiskers, making it seem like a mammal; being flightless with tiny wings; and laying huge eggs relative to its size, all adaptations for its nocturnal, ground-dwelling life in New Zealand's forests.



Watching the Kākā bird being fed at the Wildlife Center

The New Zealand Kākā (*Nestor meridionalis*) is a noisy, intelligent forest parrot known for its brush-like tongue used to feed on nectar and sap. These olive-brown birds are highly social, often moving in flocks and engaging in playful behavior. They are skilled forest engineers, using strong beaks to dig for grubs and shred bark.





WHANGANUI DISTRICT
COUNCIL



Meeting with the Mayor of Whanganui



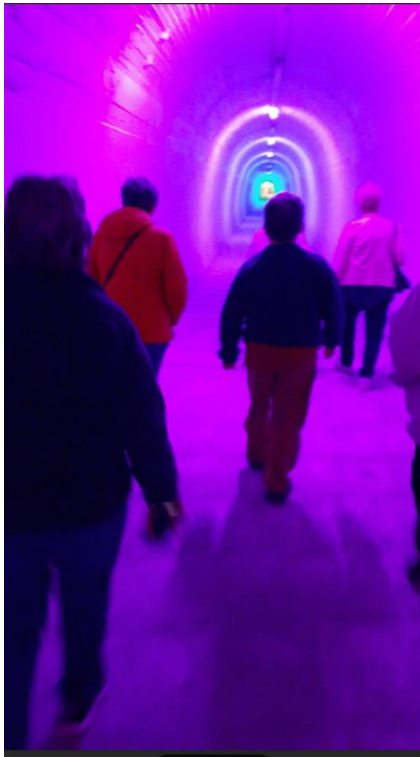
The Manawatu and Whanganui groups in front of the Art Museum in Whanganui





Maori singers practicing for a concert

Adventure getting to and views from Durie Hill



Whanganui Ambassadors go on a paddle boat trip



Taking hosts to
dinner at the
Essence Café
& Bar in
Palmerston
North



Rock of Friendship, Kowhai Park, Manawatu



The Friendship Force of Manawatu
Rock of Friendship
INCOMING CLUB VISITS

Year	Overseas Clubs	Country	Year	Overseas Clubs	Country
1986	Beachville	USA	2001	Turkey	Japan
1988	Good Times	USA	2001	Turkey	Australia
1989	Myroning	USA	2001	Belgium	Belgium
1990	Netherlands	USA	2001	London	United Kingdom
1991	Dutch Club	Netherlands	2002	National Capital	Washington DC USA
1991	Rayne, Ohio	USA	2002	State College & North Carolina	USA
1991	Belgian Marlene	USA	2002	Western Colorado & Florida	USA
1991	Sierra	Australia	2004	Western Colorado	USA
1992	Atlanta Santa Barbara	USA	2004	Central Coast	Australia
1992	Overseas Denver	USA	2004	Mid Williams	USA
1994	Nippon	Japan	2005	Southern British	Australia
1995	Florida Parkers	USA	2006	Melbourne	USA
1995	Search, San Bonito	Australia	2006	All Hawaiian	USA
1995	Yamaguchi	USA	2007	North Brandenburg	Indonesia
1996	St Louis	USA	2008	Gold Coast	Australia
1996	China	Canada	2008	Amey	Germany
1999	Tokyo	Japan	2008	Spain	Japan
1999	America & Japan Teachers	USA/ Japan	2012	New Hampshire	France
1999	San Diego	USA	2014	World Conference Group	USA
1997	Seaside, Georgia	USA	2014	Ad Indonesia	Indonesia
1997	California Coast	Northern Island	2015	Leeds & Colange	Australia
1998	Fort Worth, Texas	USA	2015	Marjorie Bridge	USA
1998	Honolulu Teachers	Australia	2016	East Washington / Idaho	USA
1998	Lugano	USA	2017	Perth	Australia
2000	Los Angeles	USA	2017	Rapids Valley / Ontario	USA
2000	Shelbyville, Kentucky	USA	2019	Brussels	Belgium
2009	Great Falls, Montana	USA			

Year	Overseas Clubs	Country	Year	Overseas Clubs	Country
2019	Livingstone	Great Britain			
2019	Down	Canada			
2020	Canberra - Covid 19	Australia			
2020	Tokyo	Japan			
2021	Nashville	New Zealand			
2024	Orlando	USA			
2025	Toronto	USA			



Lunch at the Rudyard Inn, Whanganui



Didn't know how smart cows really are until we visited this robotic cow milking farm in Feilding!



The Lely Astronaut is a leading automatic milking system (robot) designed for 24/7, voluntary milking, allowing cows to freely choose when to be milked, eat, or rest. Using lasers and 3D cameras for gentle, precise teat cup attachment, it improves cow comfort, health, and milk yield. The latest versions include the A5 and the large-farm-focused Astronaut Max.



Coach House Museum in Feilding





Hosts and Ambassadors in NZ





Madeleine with
her host
Christina
celebrating a
“big” birthday!





Farewell “fish and chips” dinner with the Manawatu folks



At the home of Stewart and Elizabeth Picken hosts for Abe & Neal







Flight from Patterson North to Auckland on board a propeller plane

View from 1500' above Queenstown



Birds of Australia and New Zealand





Highlights of Christchurch

Neil and Abe piloting a Boeing 737- 800 simulation





Dinner at John and Elaine Hannah's home outside of Christchurch.

Joined by David and Jan who hosted Neal and Abe on our post-post stay in Christchurch.

Land of the Long White Cloud



Acknowledging the indigenous people when visiting lands that used to belong to them.



We would like to acknowledge the Peramangk people, the traditional owners of the land upon which we meet today. We respect their spiritual relationship with their country and acknowledge that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still as important to those living with us today. We pay our respects to their Cultures and to the Elders both past and present.

"E noho ana tēnei i runga i te whenua taurikura o te [Iwi Name]. E mihi ana ki ngā mana whenua, ngā tūpuna o tēnei wāhi."
(I am sitting upon the treasured land of the [Iwi Name]. I acknowledge the local authority, the ancestors of this place.)