



friendship force

CENTRAL
NORTH CAROLINA

Our mission is to promote global understanding across the barriers that separate people.

Fast Facts ~ August 2013

G'Day Mates!

One month ago today, July 10, our thirteen FF ambassadors met in Brisbane, Australia for our 2013 out-bound exchange. Travel plans to and from Australia were arranged individually to allow for personal preferences prior to beginning our exchanges. Hence, the Norths and Kiszelys arrived after a week in Fiji and Judy Greene (Co-Exchange Director with Ray Kiszely) spent three days in Los Angeles, arriving on July 7th to scout Brisbane in preparation for the ambassadors' arrival. After the exchange ended the Rays explored Sydney and Auckland, NZ and Judy visited Auckland and friends in Palmerston North, NZ.

Brisbane was chosen as the starting point due to its airport, sights and proximity to our host clubs – FF Bundaberg and FF Sunshine Coast. It also allowed FFCNC members to reconnect with some of the FF Brisbane ambassadors who visited the Triad in May 2010. The Brisbane FF chapter was winding up a domestic exchange with FF Murray Bridge and invited FFCNC to their farewell luncheon.

Before the first exchange began, some ambassadors explored Brisbane historic and cultural sites, climbed the Story Bridge over the Brisbane River, enjoyed a river cruise, hiked to two waterfalls in Tambourine State Park Rain Forrest, toured a glow worm cave, visited the Koala Sanctuary, and attended the Native Australian Family Fun Festival which included vendors and both Rap and Aboriginal music and dancers.



Tree Dedication in the Bundaberg Botanical Garden Friendship Grove. L to R on back row are FFCNC ambassadors: Barbara North, Gary & Jennie Ray, Karlyn Shankland, Doris Kiszely, Dorothy Johnson, Anna & Hans Güenther, Barbara Guess and Jim North. Front row: Exchange Directors, Ray Kiszely and Judy Greene. Not pictured is our 13th ambassador, Lorrie Guess.



Jim North and his new friend at the Flying High Bird Sanctuary.

July 14 – 20 was spent in Bundaberg where, among other activities, FFCNC was honored by a dedication of a tree in our name in the Friendship Grove of the Botanical Garden adjacent to the Hinkler Aviation Centre—which also paid homage to the Wright Brothers flight in Kitty Hawk, NC!

On arrival in Nambour by train, FFCNC'ers were whisked away to a welcome tea in the Maroochydore Botanical gardens where the Sunshine Coast FF chapter had arranged for a cultural orientation about the Kabi Kabi, the indigenous people of the area. During the remainder of the exchange, FFCNC ambassadors spent a day at the

Australia Zoo, home of the late Steve Erwin, Crocodile Hunter. Other activities included visits to the Glass House Mountains where they strolled through historic villages, a rain forest preserve (Some of us saw two paddymelons!), ginger and macadamia nut factories (Do you know how this nut got its name?), scenic overlooks of ancient volcanic cones, and a beach front breakfast brunch. Lastly, our group was wined and dined at small dinners around the community almost nightly.

The award for “once in a lifetime experiences” may go to the Güenthers (of Osoyoos, British Columbia and members of FF Pentiction in BC) and Kiszelys, who helped the Queensland Music Festival break a Guinness world record by playing their tamborines in the World’s Largest Band, a record previously held by Vancouver, BC! They have their T-Shirts and tamborines to prove it!! Awards for most daring or gutsy would go to those ambassadors who went snorkeling on the Great Barrier Reef, or our snake handlers in Childers at Snakes Down Under, or the sand-boarders at Bustards Bay Lighthouse on the LARK trip! Next time you see our group of ambassadors, see if you can find out who they were!

In the words of FFCNC ambassador, Doris Kiszely, “We were treated like family during our home stays. All were willing to share their culture with us wherever we went. The time flew by and before we knew it, it was time to head back to Brisbane to begin our journey home. I think I can speak for our entire group to say that the Aussie hospitality was awesome.”

What I Enjoyed Most About My Trip to Australia Reflections of FFCNC Ambassador, Barbara Guess

As for the most exciting time I had in Australia, nothing was more exhilarating than leaving the LARC and sand sledding down the dune. As for the most relaxing time I had in Australia, nothing was more tranquil than my visit to Buderim Forest Park and Serenity Falls.

What I enjoyed most about my trip to Australia was learning about the people and the culture. One of the first things I noticed is that the people are quite friendly and helpful, much like people in North Carolina. For example, they will smile (and sometimes say hello) even though they do not know you. They say excuse me when they bump into you, and if you want to know how to get where you are going, they will give you directions if you ask for them. If they perceive that you are lost or need help finding your way somewhere, they offer unsolicited assistance. If you and somebody are taking turns taking pictures of each another, they will offer to take a picture of the two of you together.

I learned that Australians recycle and they strive to conserve energy and water. Clotheslines are preferred over the use of clothes dryers, for example, and many of the older homes are built high up off the ground for good air flow beneath. This cools the home in summer and cuts down on the need for air conditioning. To warm the house, my Sunshine Coast host sometimes used a small space heater; my host in Bargara, not far from Bundaberg, made no effort to heat the house, but in both host homes my bed was cozy and warm, thanks to a light weight doona. Many of the houses have a huge rain barrel beneath or beside them



Barbara Guess sand sledding near Bustards Bay Lighthouse.

for watering the garden, and the toilets have two flush indicators. For a short visit to the toilet, there is a half-moon looking button you press for flushing, and for an extended visit to the toilet, there is a full moon looking button you press for flushing. It is the same for public toilets, which are free and often clean.

In flat Bundaberg and neighboring towns, sugar cane fields extend almost as far as the eye can see, and the cane harvest is carried on trains that travel on tracks that are tiny like “kiddy” train tracks in amusement parks.

To show familiarity, my host said Australians like to add the “ie” sound to words, so they refer to sunglasses as “sunnies,” for example. They refer to Sunshine Coast as “Sunny Coast,” Bundaberg as “Bundy,” and Australians as “Aussies.”

Because of the intensity of the Australian sun, which is responsible for the high cancer rate among Australians, one of the school regulations is that children wear wide brim hats as part of their uniform. If they do not wear their hats they are not allowed to participate in outdoor activities with the other children.

As part of their table etiquette, I discovered that Australians set the table with the spoon to the left of the knife whereas we place the spoon to the right of the knife. They eat with the fork in the left hand and from the bottom of the fork, with the tines turned downward, whereas we eat with the fork in the right hand and from the top of the fork with the tines turned upward. Australians often hold the knife in the right hand while eating whereas Americans hold the knife in the right hand when cutting meat, then switch the fork back to the right hand before continuing to eat. In Sunshine Coast, at least, “doggie bags” are not allowed, so you cannot box up and take uneaten portions of your meal out of the restaurant with you. It is against the law.

After being driven around as a passenger in Australia for nearly three weeks, I went immediately to the driver’s side when my husband picked me up from the airport. He said, “You’re going to drive after that long trip back!” I had to readjust to being back in America.

Aside from the overall experience itself, what I value most about my trip to Australia, which I hope to make a permanent part of my lifestyle, is to always be friendly and helpful like the Australians, to be energy efficient and conservation conscious, and most of all to protect myself from the damaging rays of the sun.

In-Bound Domestic Exchange Planned for the Fall

Some of our members will remember that in the fall of 2010 FFCNC hosted a small group of Friendship Force members who had just attended the International Conference in Washington, D. C. The group that visited the Triad was mostly composed of Azerbaijani's, but also included in our guests was a couple from Colorado Springs, Peg and Dan Hannaway. They were so impressed with the Triad that they encouraged their club to visit us on a domestic in-bound exchange. As a result, FFCNC will be hosting Pike's Peak Friendship Force of Colorado from Oct. 16 – 23.

Laura Lennon has volunteered to serve as our exchange director for this visit and is already busy at work planning for it. Currently eighteen ambassadors are planning to travel here – seven couples and four singles aged 60 and up. The group may grow as large as twenty-two ambassadors. Home hosts are needed anywhere in the Triad; day hosts are needed as well. The itinerary for their visit is being developed, but it will include their attendance at our annual meeting on October 17th. Laura reports that they hope to have the hosting forms prepared by late August, so it would be wonderful if those interested in hosting, or helping in any capacity, would contact her at 336-282-5855 or pharmastat@mindspring.com by mid-August. Our guests will arrive at 8:30 AM at the Greensboro airport on Wednesday, October 16 and will depart on Wednesday, October 23 for Atlanta where they will visit the FF of Big Canoe, Georgia.

Laura adds that, judging from her conversations with Judie Werschky, their Exchange Director, this will be a fun and receptive group.

Kudos to Marilyn!



Adele Michal and Ray Kiszely are clearly enjoying their roles in "Rindercella."

Many FFCNC members and guests enjoyed their summer outing at Marilyn Baird's Lake Norman home. Among the guests was Barbara Guess who reported, "I thoroughly enjoyed the LEO at Marilyn's. Marilyn was simply delightful with her Rindercella recitation and her poem about the waddle. She had me laughing so hard that I cried, and my stomach muscles got more than a casual workout because of the hilarity of both poems. I enjoyed being the Fairy Godmother in the skit as well. My lines were easy to remember too: 'I am the Fairy Godmother,' and 'You may go to the ball.'"

In addition to Marilyn's entertainment, FFCNC members enjoyed meeting Joy Griffith's son, Tim Miller, and his girlfriend, Shirley Koob of Saskatoon, Canada, who shared some of their travel stories with

the other guests. Tim and Shirley are members of the FF club in Honolulu. In the fall of 2011, they joined the Semester at Sea Program as Life Long Learners and traveled from Montreal to Morocco, Ghana, South Africa, Mauritius, Viet Nam, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Kobe and Yokohama, Japan, Hawaii (where Tim disembarked) and on to Costa Rica through the Panama Canal to Honduras and disembarked in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. They themselves arranged for several home stays with Friendship Force chapters at ports of call in Morocco, Ghana, Viet Nam, Kobe, and Yokohama. If you are interested in learning more about the Semester at Sea voyages visit <http://www.semesteratsea.org/>.

To sum up the day Barbara Guess added, “My husband, Hal, and I were among the last to leave, so we had a bit of time to socialize quietly with Marilyn and her houseguests and that was truly a pleasure. Spending the afternoon at Marilyn’s house at Lake Norman with FFCNC was restful and delightful. Kudos to Marilyn!”

Marvin Scherl Announces Retirement From the Board

During the June board meeting Marvin Scherl announced that this will be his last year serving on the FFCNC board. Marvin has faithfully maintained the membership records of FFCNC and its Winston-Salem predecessor since 1999! Though the board will definitely miss his sense of humor during board meetings, it is understandable that after fifteen years of record keeping Marvin is ready for a change.



Ralph Cauthen has agreed to head this year’s nominating committee whose task will be to recommend our 2014 slate of officers which will include Marvin’s position as Vice-President and Membership Chair. FFCNC members who are interested in serving in this capacity or as one of the other officers of FFCNC or committee chairs are encouraged to contact Ralph Cauthen at 299-2089 or rbcauthen@aol.com.

Marvin has large shoes to fill, but we also have a wealth of talent among our members, so please take a moment to consider whether this might be the perfect opportunity for you to contribute to the goals of FFCNC. Duties of the Membership Chair consist of

- Attending board meetings (typically bi-monthly);
- Responding to inquiries about FFCNC that are submitted from our website;
- Receiving and processing membership applications;
- Maintaining our list of members including contact information;
- Communicating to the board, particularly the Communications Chair, the addition of new members so that they are added to our email distribution list;
- Mailing annual dues renewal notices; receiving dues payments; depositing dues in our bank account; and reporting deposits to the Treasurer;
- Mailing other communications to members when USPS is chosen as the method of delivery.

Marvin reports that his busy time of the year is mid-November through the end of January when dues payments are received. During this ten week period he spends about 15 – 20 hours in total on his duties collecting and processing approximately 60 dues payments. The remainder of the year his duties require small bits of time to attend the board meetings and process new membership applications.

Over the past fifteen years Marvin has developed a well-oiled process, one that he is very willing to share with his replacement and assist in their training and transition.

Many FFCNC members may not realize that the FF By-laws state that a club’s Vice-President also serves as the Membership Chair, so in the capacity of Vice-President the person filling this role will also perform all duties and responsibilities of the President in the absence of the President.

Jack Mullen Announces New FFI President and CEO

As the chair of the board of directors of Friendship Force International, it gives me great pleasure to announce the appointment of Joy DiBenedetto as FFI's fifth president and CEO. Joy brings a great deal of experience to FFI from her years at Atlanta-based international news agency CNN and CARE Organization, the non-profit based in Atlanta that works to end poverty in the world. Those on the search committee who met her feel that she has the skill and vision to lead our organization through the next phase. Joy will begin her work here on July 15, 2013, and we will formally introduce Joy to the club members at the world conference in New Orleans.



Joy is the founder and former CEO of HUM: Human Unlimited Media, the world's first and only 'all-nation' content and information agency. An award-winning 20-year media veteran, she has covered every major global event in successively senior positions, from the television studio and in the field; domestically and internationally; as a producer and manager.

Until March of 2008, she was the global vice president of network booking and research for the CNN News Group, where she oversaw guest coverage for CNN's domestic and international news networks, managing a worldwide staff.

Throughout her career she has strived to promote the importance of global understanding and to unite the world's people. With Turner Broadcasting, CNN and HUM she made positive change towards "closing the Geographic Gap" in media coverage. She has also pursued various humanitarian efforts with CARE, the Fugee's Family and the United Nations.

DiBenedetto is a world trekker who often bicycles to work and who has survived Dengue Fever. I know you will welcome her and give her the support that the President will need as we strive to grow in our mission.

It is only fitting to give a big thanks to the CEO search committee who worked for the last 7 months to bring us to this day where I am able to make this announcement.

Again, I welcome Joy to the FFI family and I know you welcome her too!

Sincerely,
Jack Mullen, Chair of the FFI Board of Directors

Friendship Force Name Badges

Don't forget – if you are a new member or simply have not ordered your new Friendship Force name badge, please contact Judy Greene (336-768-1732 or green111184@bellsouth.net.) You will need to let Judy know exactly how you would like your name to appear and which kind of name badge you would like (magnetic, bull dog clip, or pin.) There is no charge as FFCNC is covering this expense.



2013 Calendar Highlights

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| September 5 | Board Meeting; 11:45 AM; MSUMC; Kernersville |
| October 16 – 23 | In Bound Exchange from Pike's Peak FF, Colorado |
| October 17 | Annual Membership Meeting; MSUMC; Kernersville |
| November 7 | Board Meeting; 11:45 AM MSUMC; Kernersville |