



The View from the Peak

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Council Coordinator's Message



Wow, I didn't see this coming! Here we are, staying at home, wearing masks when we absolutely must venture out, and the economy has slammed on the brakes with nearly 17 million fellow Americans out of work. As a club we have been very fortunate. Our outbound journey to New Zealand was wonderful but we left there just in time. We left on March 3rd, and on March 14th New Zealand's Prime Minister announced that anyone arriving after midnight, March 15th, had to be quarantined for two weeks. Unfortunately, the Northern Colorado Club arrived on March 14th for a one week stay in New Zealand and a one week stay in Australia. Both were promptly

cancelled by the host clubs on March 14th. The Northern Colorado Club members had to do a lot of scrambling to reschedule flights back to Colorado and departed on March 15th before midnight.

Since then Friendship Force has been heavily impacted by the restrictions put in place to control the spread of the COVID 19 virus. Our outbound journey to Tucson in April was cancelled and our inbound journey from North Bay Ontario in September may be delayed or cancelled. The Friendship Force Regional Conference in Portland, Oregon in May has been cancelled as well as the 2021 International Conference in Kaohsiung City, Taiwan. As with many other challenges Americans have faced, we will survive this temporary setback.

In the meantime, our Friendship Force International (FFI) office in Atlanta needs our help. Since FFI relies heavily on journey fees to operate, they have seen over a 60% reduction in income due to cancelled journeys worldwide. In order to continue operations, they have slashed spending, reduced staff and reduced salaries of those remaining. Soon they will have exhausted all their savings and will be out of money. Your Leadership Council discussed their need and voted to contribute the amount we would have sent to FFI for our cancelled Tucson journey - \$1,080. The Council will do a further scrub of our books with the hope of being able to contribute additional funds. If you wish, you can donate individually through FFI's website at www.friendshipforce.org or by contacting our Club Treasurer, Dick Battersby. Remember, if FFI goes out of business, our club goes out of business, so please give what you can. I hope that you and your family are safe and well and that we will soon be spreading friendship throughout the world once again. Although our April 21st General Membership Meeting has been cancelled, I look forward to seeing you at our June 16th General Membership Meeting at 4:30 pm at the Silver Key Community Center.

Steve Tindell

Meetings Coming Up

General Membership Meetings –Tuesday June 16

NOTE: The April 21 meeting HAS BEEN CANCELLED

The June 16 meeting is at 4:30 pm in the Silver Key Community Room, 1655 South Murray Blvd just behind the Silver Key main building.

Picnic, Tuesday, August 18. Catered at the Woodmoor Barn.

Carol Jefferson is heading up the planning for these events. If you could help set up prior to meetings, if you have entertainment/speaker suggestions, or if you have ideas for a picnic location or menu, please give Carol a call. **815-867-7704.**

Future Journeys

2020 Plans

Outbound Domestic: None at this time. The Tucson Arizona journey (March 29 - April 4) was cancelled. We will try to reschedule, but probably not this year.

Inbound International: North Bay, Ontario, Canada. Dates are September 22-29, but this too may be cancelled or postponed. If you are interested in home hosting for this event, please contact Kaye Brabec so we can be ready if they do elect to come.

Inbound Domestic: We do not have a domestic inbound scheduled for 2020.

2021 Plans

Outbound International: FFI has given us our request for Japan. This includes the Fukuoka club, whom we hosted in May 2019, and a second week in Niigata. However, this journey, planned for May 10 - 24, 2021, may be postponed due to the COVID-19 disruptions. Kaye Brabec is compiling a list of names of those who would like to participate in this journey. So please call her if you would like to be included.

Outbound Domestic: We are still talking with Columbia-Cascade, Washington, about a reciprocal journey there in June 2021 to coincide with their Rose Festival. We would also like them to come here in September. Since we went to the northwest in 2017, we are also talking with the Knoxville, Tennessee, chapter about visiting them in 2021.

Inbound International. We will be hosting the club from New Plymouth, New Zealand, in September 2021. For those of you who joined our New Zealand outbound, their visit will be a chance to get reacquainted and renew friendships we made. For the rest, it will be an opportunity to meet some wonderful people and show them our part of the United States. They will also be visiting the Quebec Friendship Force Club while in North America.

Being an ambassador is what we are all about.

If you wish to participate in any of these journeys, please contact **Kaye Brabec, FFPPR Journey Liaison, 434-2053.** Making new friends in far-flung places is the essence of Friendship Force. Along

the way you become much closer to the FFPPR club members who share your travels. So, don't waste these opportunities to live, love, laugh and learn. Be a friend. Make new friends.

Journey Coordinators are always needed

If you think you might like to try this role, please contact Kaye. You would start out as a helper to gain experience before taking on the full job. FFI has a very good guidebook on what you need to do. And in this role you get to either find new and interesting activities for our inbound visitors, or be in the driver's seat for visiting a new location.

Travel Teasers - Kiwi Terms to Master

FFPPR members who recently traveled to New Zealand, encountered some terms that most "Yanks" would find interesting and amusing. Can you identify the correct meanings? (Answers on page 11)

1. Hogget
 - a. Neutered pig
 - b. Folk dance
 - c. Young sheep
2. Long Drop
 - a. Floor-length gown
 - b. Outhouse
 - c. Rugby kick
3. Rattle your dags
 - a. Dance
 - b. Be confused
 - c. Hurry up
4. Tea
 - a. Main evening meal
 - b. Drink with jam and bread
 - c. Afternoon snack
5. Queen's Chain
 - a. Symbol of office
 - b. Public land above high tide
 - c. Measure of length
6. Wopwops
 - a. Thrashing machines
 - b. Finger food
 - c. The sticks
7. Gummies
 - a. Old ewes with no teeth
 - b. Soft candy
 - c. False teeth
8. Bach (or Crib in the South)
 - a. Single man
 - b. Group of lambs
 - c. Holiday home
9. Wethers
 - a. Outsiders
 - b. Neutered male sheep
 - c. Farm boots
10. Straggle muster
 - a. Stray sheep roundup
 - b. Sunrise gathering
 - c. Group of drinking buddies
11. Daggy bits
 - a. Old clothing
 - b. Wool encrusted with sheep dung
 - c. Spun sugar candy
12. Tiki Tour
 - a. Sunday drive
 - b. South Pacific holiday
 - c. Torchlight parade
13. Zebra Crossing
 - a. Crosswalk
 - b. Animal underpass
 - c. British flag

And here's the ultimate guide to NZ slang: <http://www.newzealandslang.com/>

What In The World?



Steve Tindell saw this machine during his travels. Can you guess what it is for? (Answer on page 11)

New Zealand Reflections

A Week on a Southland Farm

Jeanne Marsh

The trip to visit our cultural cousins in New Zealand was a very special experience for me, especially our stay in the South Island. Whereas I always knew that our two countries share roots in British common law, over the weeks we spent visiting there, I also learned that we share much more than a (somewhat similar) English language heritage.

During our first week's homestay, we were hosted on a dairy farm near Invercargill. The 100-yr-old farmhouse needed a little repair, but the hardwood frame building had stood the test of time relatively well, considering the harsh, damp climate. Our hosts were not that much younger than we are, but they owned three farms, overseeing daily operations for all three. Their 20-year-old son has started taking over some of the work, but there is still plenty to go around.



On our "free" day, we drove about an hour north to their farm near Te Anau, where we watched as Lynette and Graeme herded a hundred or so heifers from one pasture (they call them "paddocks") to another. With Graeme riding a four-wheeler behind, and our van blocking the only escape, Lynette used hand-held ropes to drive the cattle in the right direction, until they were safely enclosed in the new paddock. That mission accomplished, we next watched from the porch of the house maintained for their farm workers, as Graeme brought a calf-feeder into the adjoining



Calf feeding

paddock. We witnessed a group of ‘way-too-big calves competing for teats on the much-too-small milk trailer. Lynette explained that as they grow too big to force their way through the crowd to the feeder, the growing calves gradually wean themselves.

Later that evening, on her smart phone Lynette showed us a video of Graeme



Graeme's Baillage

operating a bailing machine to wrap up "bailage" (green grass, not hay) for winter feed. Never a day off for them, it would seem. I doubt they will ever be able to participate in outbound journeys with FFI. I marvel that they can even home-host.

I will say, though, we were on our own for breakfast every morning. When you get up at 3:30 to milk at 4:00, you don't have time to cook a full English breakfast for guests.



Lynette's Pet Lambs

Oh--I didn't mention--besides milk cows they also have a small flock of sheep, a few of which they keep just as pets. Walking up to their enclosure on the first day of our visit, Lynette called them by name and they all came running to be scratched behind the ear. When I asked Lynette whether they would ever be slaughtered, she said, " Oh, they're not going anywhere." Still, for our hosted dinner we did have a wonderful meal prepared by Geri's hostess, featuring leg of an unnamed lamb donated from our hosts' farm, and root vegetables roasted in juices from the meat. Yum!

In spite of having a large collection of chickens roaming the farm, Lynette buys eggs. Apparently, her feral brood of hens hides the eggs so effectively that it's not worthwhile even trying to find them. Meanwhile, roosters so abound that the population keeps growing and growing. Under the circumstances, I can understand Lynette's unwillingness to take on the responsibility for any other animals. The chickens just fend for themselves. Enough is enough.

Dairy farming is the “cash cow” (pardon the pun) of the New Zealand economy, but I found sheep farming more fascinating, perhaps because I was less knowledgeable about the subject. Even though there are far more sheep than people in New Zealand, wool production is not at all profitable. At most, sheep can be sheared twice yearly, and the cost of shearing just about matches the price the wool brings. The only profit in raising sheep comes from selling the meat on the international market. Soft, non-scratchy merino wool is probably the only money-maker for wool merchants, now that synthetic fabrics have seized much of the wintertime warmth market. Incidentally, did you know that merino sheep are browsers, not grazers? Their ideal home is in the rugged, rocky, mountainous regions of New Zealand. In contrast, in the beautifully green lowland paddocks where most of New Zealand's sheep flourish, these ultra-soft merino woolies develop foot problems and don't do well. Their natural highland habitat can support only one animal per 2-3 acres, so it's clear why their fine, long wool is more expensive.

During the weeks we spent in New Zealand, we learned so much about the history and culture of the islands. We learned about the gold rush and the lumber boom eras. We heard about the opportunistic pillage of natural resources and the conflicts with the native Maori population (who themselves had supplanted an earlier native culture through ruthless conquest). The history of the islands echoes the history of the United States in its march toward the future. What impressed me most about the lifestyle of the people of New Zealand was the independent spirit, the self-reliance and the work ethic we observed. It reminded me of what the U.S. must've been like a hundred years ago. There is good and bad in the history of any nation, but the spirit of its ordinary people is the best reflection of a country's character. In our own country I wonder if we haven't lost something very precious in our rush towards progress....



Maori Warrior Hakka

A Day on a Family Farm

Bryan and Hellen Hocken, members of the New Plymouth FF club, bought a 465-hectare (1,149-acre) farm in 1982 from Bryan's father, who acquired it in 1955 from Bryan's mother's family. Her two brothers had owned it since 1946, but their wives apparently didn't see eye to eye about farm life and wanted more family separation. Bryan and Helen's daughter Sarah married Jared Koogan. After starting a family, Jared and Sarah decided farm life was for them. So, in 2015, they formed a corporation with Bryan and Helen, "Matarata Downs", and are now majority shareholders. To memorialize the event, Bryan dragged a huge boulder up from the river and engraved the dates of each family's farm ownership since 1946. The three Koogan children, Haley (12) and her two younger brothers Alec and Emmet, all help with chores and were there with Sarah and Jared to greet us.



When we arrived at the farm, about 10:00 am on a rainy Monday, we were ushered into the "wool shed." The shed is indeed used for shearing sheep, but that only happens about 10 days each year. The rest of the time it is a "party shed" and general meeting place. And yes, it was quite clean. The slatted wood floor let the sheep "stuff" slip through to the crawl space below— with a little scrubbing.

After introductions we watched a 20-minute YouTube video of the Hyundai Country Calendar from 2019. It is a very popular weekly TV program, and this episode (#34) featured the Hocken-Koogan farm. You can find it at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mCzu8db8iow>. It's worth watching to get a feel for life on a New Zealand family farm. They now raise about 2,500 sheep and 900 cattle. Wool is currently a money-loser at \$400 per bale and used mostly for carpet, just about paying for the cost of shearing. Profit comes from the meat. And we learned that as the animals grow, they are first called lambs, then hoggets, and then two-tooth, before they are old enough to become just plain sheep. They said hoggets taste the best. The Koogans also buy young cows each year, fatten them, put them "with the bulls" and then sell them before they calve. Since the farm has wonderful grassland, they also "graze

Brian Marsh

off” other farmers’ cattle for \$11 per head per week. This provides better cash flow and means they don’t have to cut hay on their hilly pastures.

After lunch, Jared showed us how to shear sheep, shoving six of them, naked and bleating, down a chute to the pen below. Haley collected the wool for baling, separating out the “daggy bits”.



Just in time the rain stopped and the sun came out, so Jared and Sarah could take us on a tour of their farm. We watched Haley and the dogs move a flock of sheep to a fresh pasture, got a great view of most of the farm, and even stopped at the “air strip,” where the ag planes land, load up with a ton of

fertilizer, and then take off to spread it over the hilly pastures. Then we drove back along the Waitara River, the farm’s eastern boundary, to the wool shed for final farewells.

What a far cry from the lives most of us lead here in Colorado Springs. The people in New Plymouth, New Zealand are probably a generation behind us, still maintaining a close tie with the land. Many of the Friendship Force club members there were retired farmers whose children have begun the city and industry life. But seeing and hearing about farm life, difficult, full of hard work, but very satisfying, makes me appreciate a little more the food and clothing we take for granted here in our protected city bubble.



Views of New Zealand





Coastal Trees near Riverton



Skyline Gondola at Queenstown



Gandalf in the Wellington Airport



Hongi Greeting



Overlooking Picton Harbor



Mayor Dan

New Member Profile



New-to-us members Susan Raymer and Jack Naff live in beautiful Westcliffe, 1 ½ hours away. They came to our December Christmas dinner as the guests of Annabel Widney, who had met them at last summer's international conference in Boulder. Susan and Jack were members of the Denver club for many years; in January they transferred their affiliation to the Pike's Peak Region. They intend to attend meetings here, when the weather permits, but have also expressed an interest in day hosting or perhaps home hosting before or after an incoming group's visit in the Springs.

Jack and Susan have traveled extensively with other Friendship Force clubs and have particularly enjoyed their five exchanges in New Zealand (none to New Plymouth, however). Susan's most recent Journey was to Romania with the Florida Suncoast club. The club arranged a joint venture with Habitat for Humanity, and 12 American women and one Swiss worked on a Habitat build in Moinesti. They then spent four days in a Bucharest hotel while being taken around by the two hardy FF club members there.

As far as hobbies go, they both hike (Jack more than Susan), attempt to garden in their challenging weather conditions, read, and travel. Susan is a member of the garden club, the quilt club, and a book club. She is also secretary of the Board of the West Custer County Library Friends. Jack monitors properties for San Isabel Land Protection Trust and helps crush cardboard at the county landfill; he is also a volunteer DJ at the local radio station and plays guitar at the farmers market in the summer.

Travel Travails – A Day at DIA

Brian Marsh

The start of our journey to New Zealand was normal and pleasant. We drove to Aurora early Monday morning and met our oldest son, Alan, who had agreed to keep our car in his garage while we were gone. He shuttled us to DIA where we got our bags checked, navigated through security amid the construction, and arrived at our gate with a couple of hours to spare. We met Susan Dilloway there, and struck up a conversation with a couple, Bob and Carol Royce, who were also flying to New Zealand. They planned three weeks of exploring on their own. Everything seemed fine, although snow had begun to fall.

Our first indication of a potential problem came with an announcement by American Airlines of a delay in our 4:00 pm departure. At first it was only an hour - workable. Then it increased to 4 hours – a major connection problem. At 8:50 pm we finally boarded, found our seats, and all cheered when the plane's door closed behind us.

But then silence. No sound of engines starting or feelings of motion. After about five minutes, the pilot announced that her first officer would exceed his FAA-mandated maximum hours by the time we reached Los Angeles. But there was hope. Another flight was due in to DIA with a first officer who could fill in. That wait added another two-hour delay. We were, at first, given the option of staying on the plane or getting off to stretch our legs. That guidance was soon changed to “everybody off”. So we collected our things and proceeded back to the gate for more waiting.



When the second plane arrived, it required maintenance to fix something they assured us was minor but deemed essential by the FAA. We boarded this second plane about 12:15 am. But, no closing door sound – a bad sign. After a short delay the pilot announced that with the maintenance delay and expected deicing time, our new first officer would be out of hours before we reached LA. So again, off of the airplane. It was now 12:50 AM!

With seats near the back of the airplane, we were slow getting off. Forty people were ahead of us in line, and a single gate agent was trying to rebook all the passengers. Pleas for assistance to agents at a nearby gate only got a terse “we’re busy” response. Eventually another two agents arrived to speed up the rebooking process. But we were now faced with the problem that taking our original flight a day later would mean a 9:10 am arrival in Auckland, one-half hour **after** our scheduled 8:40 am flight from Auckland to Wellington. We had originally planned a day (23 ½ hours) in Auckland to avoid this mismatch but now had lost that padding. And since we had booked our domestic travel directly with New Zealand Air, we figured American would not be particularly sympathetic with our situation.

But Susan saved the day. Ladies strike up acquaintances quickly, and she discovered that Bob and Carol Royce had talked with their New Zealand travel agent and gotten booked on a United flight that arrived in Auckland at 5:30 am rather than American’s 9:10. Jeanne and Susan had also managed to stand with them in line, much further ahead than my position, and were able to convince American to book us on the United flight. After collecting our bags, we departed DIA for an overnight stay at the local Comfort Inn, getting to bed about 3:15am.



After a somewhat abbreviated night’s sleep and a leisurely breakfast at the motel we again shuttled to DIA where we met Jerry Sabolik. He had planned the Tuesday departure all along. This time we (now four of us) did make an on-time 4:20 pm departure on United to San Francisco. The change in San Francisco was smooth and we arrived on time in Auckland.

We did miss our day of sightseeing in Auckland, but at least we arrived in Southland as planned. If it had not been for our chance encounter with Jack and Carol, no telling when we would have arrived in Southland, maybe a day late. Chance acquaintances can be very helpful. Striking up a conversation with strangers can have its benefits.

A First-Journey Perspective

Geri Bowman

My first trip with Friendship Force was a three-week tour to New Zealand and it was absolutely wonderful! I have traveled many times and have been to many beautiful, exotic places, but never as a single person. This was a new adventure for me and actually, very scary! Even after putting down my deposit, I had many thoughts about how crazy it was to go so far and for so long with people I hardly knew on my first solo trip. I almost cancelled many times. So very glad I didn't!!



There were twelve of us on the trip. Dan Hannaway, our journey coordinator, organized several informational meetings beforehand which were very beneficial. My hosts, both single ladies, communicated by email before the trip and also added tips. Everyone was so helpful as far as getting a visa, making reservations and planning what to pack, etc. Thank you all.

This journey was a trip of a lifetime. Staying with host families and being a part of their clubs while in their country is a fantastic way to learn about that country. Not only did I see an utterly beautiful country, but best of all I got to experience their wonderful culture through the eyes of many fun, warm and gracious people. I now have new friends in our club and in New Zealand! I look forward to doing more trips!

Answers

Kiwi Quiz: 1c young sheep, 2b outhouse, 3c hurry up, 4a main evening meal, 5b public land above high tide, 6c the sticks, 7a old ewes with no teeth, 8c holiday home, 9b neutered male sheep, 10a stray sheep roundup, 11b wool encrusted with sheep dung, 12a Sunday drive, 13a crosswalk

What in the World: A POSSUM PLUCKER

Insert a possum in one end (deceased of course), hang on and fur blows out the other end. When mixed with Merino wool, possum fur is used to make gloves, hats, scarves, coats, etc that are luxurious, warm and rather pricey.

Steve's Comments: Although I did see it operating, I did not see it pluck a possum. The fellow that built it hunts possums, built the machine and has used it to clean hundreds of possums. The concept is amazingly simple. He cut strips from a rubber power take off belt and inserted them into a small wooden cylinder so that it looks like a paddle wheel. When the machine is started the paddle wheel rotates very fast. You just hang onto the possum's hind legs and slowly push him over the rubber paddles and they strip the fur off and it is blown into the green bag on the other end. There was ample possum fur residue in the machine and in the green bag. Witnesses that were there assured me that it was the real deal. I believe it would work on chickens, ducks, geese, etc.

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