

Liaison Officer Report - Oamaru AGM 2017

Currently Oamaru has 7 members, with 8 dogs.

These are:

- Anthea & Sophie (Choc Lab), Liz & Bronwyn (Black Lab) and Judy & Dusty (Golden Lab) visiting Iona Home
- Myself & Willow (Greyhound) visiting Northanjer. Due to my son's age and current nap time we have put a hold on visits until we can work out a different day or time to visit. In the mean time, Anthea and Sophie may visit for me.
- Leanne & Elmo & Flo. Elmo (Pug mix) currently visits Southanger Rest Home which specialises in dementia care. The residents enjoy her small size and quirky nature. Flo (Golden Retriever) is due to do her first visit to Iona Home next week to join the Lab Team. Iona is a very large home so the more the merrier.
- Susan & Meg (Toy Poodle) visiting Harbourview. Our newest members, they are going well and Meg is a great hit with the residents.
- Jane & Mungo (Irish Wolfhound) visiting Rendell on Reed.

As far as I am aware, Karen & Edie are no longer members due to personal issues and health.

I arranged an Oamaru member coffee morning catch up which was attended by 4 of us. Some points that were raised:

- o Rendell on Reed has recently been sold and we were unsure of what the future for visits held. I have contacted the home and they have said that until August we can continue to do visits. The activities coordinator will contact the manager at the new premises to see whether we can continue to take dogs when the facility is relocated. If we can, I will be putting a second dog in to visit here.
- o One of the members raised the point that she sometimes finds it hard to know what to do/talk about with people with dementia or other sensory impairments that don't communicate well or at all. I have contacted Iona, as the biggest provider of residential care, to ask about training, advice or a handout that we can have. They will get back to me about this.
- o We discussed dog mental welfare on visits and the use of treats, reading body language and variety. This is an area that I feel should be covered in the newsletter... Often photographs appear in the newsletter or FB page where the dog is showing signs of discomfort, tension or anxiety. While we know that the people that come into contact with our dogs are benefiting, it is important that we don't imagine our dogs love doing it when their body language tells us otherwise. They are unaware of their value or the concept of doing a good deed and if they are uncomfortable but tolerant their feelings can be easily overlooked. Often people confuse a grimace of tension or discomfort as a smile. As a vet doing behaviour I really feel that this is an area that needs to be publicised so that all members can fully understand what their dogs are communicating and how to deal with it or help them.

- o We will soon have one or more members visiting Tokaro Lodge again as I am no longer able to do this either due to family commitments. This is a terminal care ward attached to the Oamaru Hospital.
- o There is only one rest home in Oamaru that we do not currently have a dog/owner team visiting.
- o The ladies that have ordered named badges report that they are happy with them and feel that people do look at them to see a name.
- o Via email, the other members have got back to me with nothing to complain about or to add to the upcoming AGM.
- o When asked, although it does not apply to them directly, they had no problem with the suggestion that an extra \$10 be charged when becoming a member to cover badge and scarf costs.
- o We went over the main H&S points.

Everyone enjoys visiting and likes being part of the group.

Thanks, Cath, LO Oamaru

Liaison Officer Report - Otago AGM 2017

It is quite a busy time assessing, making appointments and hoping they will all follow through as the process is not at all arduous. So far I have only had one member to complete the process and actually go to the Fulton Radius Care centre which I felt very satisfied. People seem to need a little jog along although they have valid reasons, having puppies and going on extended trips overseas. We can only hope they keep in touch with me when their life settles down.

Beth Madigan

Liaison Officer Report - Nelson/Tasman AGM 2017

The first half of 2017 has been busy for Nelson / Tasman Canine Friends. We have had six new applicants, including one from Blenheim.

The calibre of dogs and owners continues to inspire Jenny and me, from a Border Collie who could have won Britain's Got Talent, to a young Bernese Mountain Dog who passes on the grounds of "fur therapy" alone.

Our local rest-homes are unfailingly welcoming, and we hope soon to have a placement in a local school to advance the cause of educating children in dog behaviour, and the mutual respect and love that ensues.

The Canine Friends Pet Therapy flag is flying high in this district and we expect our profile to grow.

Sarah Moore - Liaison Officer
Jennifer Grant – Assessor

Liaison Officer Report - Queenstown AGM 2017

Currently Queenstown has 5 financial members with 12 potential members and 4 assessments in progress.

We only have one facility here in Queenstown which is attached to our hospital. Our elderly care facility Wakatipu Home run by Bupa. We have a wonderful relationship with them and have been visiting for the past 9 years.

Our operation here runs on a team basis, we meet usually every 2 weeks and attend as a group. Our lovely Dears have a wide range of conditions and welcome with much interest, chat and laughter our regular visits. In the past we have been able to take them, with the help of their Activities Co-Ordinators of the time, out for special movie screenings, afternoon teas kindly hosted by locals and at Christmas time we put on a festive afternoon tea, decorating the dining room with balloons, flowers, Christmas Crackers and small gifts organised by our wonderful team. This past Christmas we had a darling little 8-year old girl sing carols for the residents, joyous faces and tears of happiness were shared by all.

We have the opportunity of branching out into Wanaka and Cromwell in the spring which is exciting and will certainly keep us busy I'm sure and increase the awareness and profile of CFPT and the wonderful work our volunteers do.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking my amazing team and their incredible dogs for their ongoing support here in Queenstown.

Beryle Ravenwood

Liaison Officer Report - Invercargill & Southland AGM 2017

A warm greetings from the bottom of the South Island -

We have a growing team consisting of 5 active members (one who visits 3 different organisations) and 3 more new members in the pipeline.

We are visiting these organisations

- Takitimu
- Bainfield Lodge
- Rose Lodge
- Waikiwi Gardens
- Peacehaven (PSSA)
- Ascot

We were very grateful to PSSA who published a great photo in their newsletter of CFPT together with an appeal for volunteers.

Marie Lockie