

Nominations for the National Committee AGM 2020

As per our constitution, each year we need to appoint up to 12 people onto the National Committee.

There are three Officer positions that must be filled. They are:

President

Secretary

Treasurer

and 9 General Committee positions

Here are the nominations received for the Officer positions:

President: Vicky Graham from Taupo

My involvement with Canine Friends Pet Therapy began in the early 1990's as a volunteer and committee member. With much pride I have witnessed the growth of our organisation from small beginnings in Wellington to a recognised and respected nationwide charity.

My professional career spanned 25 years in the insurance industry, the last 10 in senior management roles. I have good communication and organisational skills with a strong commitment to causes I am passionate about – Canine Friends is one such cause. I wholeheartedly believe in visiting and helping those who can no longer enjoy the benefits of owning a dog – this to me is the essence of our organisation.

For as long as I remember dogs have been part of my life and have owned Golden Retrievers since the 1980's, participating in a wide range of disciplines and having owned a large pet boarding facility after leaving the insurance industry I feel I have a broad knowledge of the dog world. I have instructed at the Taupo Dog Training Club since 2016. I have also held committee positions with other animal related organisations since the 1990s.

In 2009 I established Canine Friends in Taupo and was privileged to be recognised as an honorary life member in 2015. In 2017 I once again joined the committee in the role of vice president and funding coordinator. In 2018 I was delighted to confirm a three-year partnership agreement with Ziwi and continue to foster this relationship.

In 2019 I was elected president and continued as funding coordinator. I have enjoyed working with the committee, developing relationships with members, and aligning Canine Friends with other related organisations. I am totally committed to giving my best efforts in the interests of Canine Friends and continuing Eileen's vision. I am self-employed in a part time capacity and can dedicate the time and energy necessary to fulfil the role.

Secretary: Leanne Gibson from Wellington

I've been a member of the Committee since 2015 and have undertaken a number of roles over that time such as Funding Co-ordinator, database manager, Treasurer and Secretary. I work fulltime as a Technology Manager, so have helped the Committee with a number of technology innovations such as putting in Wild Apricot (our membership management system); moving our accounts to Xero; and using video conferencing for our meetings. I have a pug (Summer) who is no longer visiting and a rescue puppy (Cane) who aspires to be a Canine Friend when he grows up. I love working with the talented and professional team that make up our National Committee and once again would like to put my hand up again for the role of Secretary and database manager (or just to be on the general committee for 2020/21).

Treasurer: Dallas Hopkins from Christchurch

I'm currently the Corporate Accountant at AgResearch in Lincoln, a position I have held for the past 20 months, prior to that I was an auditor in the public accounting sector for nearly 5 years. I hold a B.Com



majoring in Accounting, a Post Graduate Diploma in Chartered Accountancy and am a fully qualified Chartered Accountant. In addition to my day to day job, I also run an equestrian business and assist small businesses and sole traders with their day-to-day accounting queries and taxation requirements. Through my experience as an accountant and auditor, I believe the main areas of expertise that I could offer to the committee are:

- Commercial Acumen
- Financial Reporting/Compliance
- Governance Experience (in position of auditor, you advise a number of governing bodies)
- Strategic Initiatives
- Financial Planning/Investing

Besides offering practical expertise, I also offer my enthusiasm and creativity for animals and the positive impact that being a Canine Friend has on people's lives. I've been a Canine Friend for 8 years with my Samoyed (Atticus) and have found that sharing those moments of happiness and love with a variety of people from all walks of life to be very fulfilling and inspiring. For this reason, I would love to see the reach and impact that Canine Friends has, spread as far and wide as possible while providing a supportive network for the like-minded individuals who offer their time and pets to make the vision possible.

Here are the General Committee nominations – listed in Alphabetical order (by surname)

Rachel Butler from Auckland

My name is Rachel Butler and am founding owner/instructor of Take the Lead Dog Training. I have assisted countless owners and all types of dogs with good manners and everyday control for well over 25 years.

I have trained my own dogs in the sports of obedience, agility, tracking and heelwork to music, gaining National awards and qualifications in those areas.

Qualifications, Experience and Membership:

Certificate of Animal Management (Canine Behaviour and Training).

Seminar and workshop attendance of internationally known dog behaviourists and trainers.

Life member of North Shore Dog Training Club, having held office as President, Secretary and Head Instructor at various times.

I continue to be an active member and volunteer instructor at this club.

Assessor for the Canine Good Citizen scheme run by Dogs New Zealand (a national dog training and breed council).

Assessor and active member for Canine Friends Pet Therapy since 2011.

Have been on the CFPT Committee since June 2017.

Rachel Davison from Lower Hutt

I was born in Eastbourne although spent many years living overseas, in Australia, England, Holland and Tanzania. Ours was a family devoted to animals (our house was always full of cats, dogs and goldfish) and we were brought up with a strong ethic of caring for the environment that we live in.

I worked in the primary health care arena as a Medical Laboratory Scientist in Microbiology and have spent my later years in Project Management within the medical and environmental fields.

I am very gregarious, friendly (I smile a lot) and have a good sense of humour and enjoy a challenge.

I am loyal and adept at communicating whether by phone, email or face to face and get on well with all personalities.

I joined Canine Friends in 2012 and I used to visit the rehabilitation unit at Hutt Hospital and it is only because of old age (my dogs) that we retired from that role but still remained members of Canine Friends.

I took on the Liaison Officer role in July 2017 so that I could still participate in Canine Friends and get the enjoyment that visiting gives me when I accompany all new volunteers on their first visits.



It was wonderful being part of the "Canine Friends Good sorts" TV show and there was the added bonus of Eileen Curry accompanying me to the Governor Generals Garden Party in February 2020.

Annette Dougherty from Lower Hutt

As I have been a dog owner for over 60 years, owning many different dog breeds, I was really happy when I passed my assessment with Eileen Curry back in 2005 and joined our organization visiting Ropata Residential Home for a number of years, firstly with my Spoodle Meg, then with Murphy my Bichon/Poodle cross.

I also was asked to join the Committee by Eileen Curry at that time and have been a committee member ever since.

I have spent many years in the public area of Real Estate, and four years ago I started up my own business of Petite Paws Dog Grooming in Lower Hutt which is extremely successful and very enjoyable.

I have held the position for our club over the years as Data Base Manager, Newsletter Editor, Liaison Officer, Vice President, President and currently I am the New Members Co-ordinator, this position I have held for the past 2 years. It is a busy but enjoyable role and my geography of New Zealand is improving immensely! I have really enjoyed working and getting to know the extremely dedicated Liaison Officers and do hope you had a productive time during our recent levels of shutdown.

A small chocolate miniature poodle (Coco) came to live with Murphy and me the day we entered Level 4 so have spent most of my time trying! to tell her I am the leader of the pack! She has got definitely got other ideas! so may take some time before she is a good Canine Friends Pet Therapy visitor!

Over the years I have made some wonderful friends in our organization, both human and canine, and would like to put my name forward for re-election on the National Committee for 2020/21.

Carol Drew from Auckland

I am a trained Counsellor and also a Karitane Nurse from way back when! I take my miniature poodle (Venus) with me on all my assignments/sessions and she puts people at ease and enjoys being patted and loved - after all they only want to see her don't, they? Venus has been with me to hospitals, rest homes, to critical incident debriefs and just about anything...

I am a very firm believer in animal assisted therapy and what animals can so for us. I also work with horses. I have been a member since August 2016 and would like to put my hand up to join the Committee.

Sandy Fea from Wellington

I have only been on the CFPT committee for a year.

I first met Eileen Curry in 1988 when I was on the lookout for a Golden Retriever puppy. I grew up with animals and my first dog was a Lab X. I spotted an ad in the paper for the Central Golden Retriever Club and my love for Goldies began from there.

My two children were independent by then, so I decided to breed/show my dog Heidi. I soon got very involved with obedience competition and before long was taking classes and roped into the role of Vice President of the Wellington Canine Obedience Club. I judged many elementary obedience tests but didn't have the time to go on the Judges panel.

I joined Canine Friends when it first started up but as I worked full time and competed in dog sports including tracking and agility, I didn't have the time to visit homes until I retired. I then visited Hutt Hospital, Stokeswood and Shona McFarlane retirement homes for two years with my Goldies Lexi, then Holly and Tara. I found it too much when my mother needed my help so only visit Shona McFarlane now and any other place that needs a temporarily fill in.

I am a life member of Titahi Bay Canine Obedience Club and have taken Senior training classes there for



many years. I have enjoyed being a part of the lovely CFPT committee that do a wonderful job and would like to be part of the 2020/21 committee.

Beverley Jocelyn from Lower Hutt

I am a retired person but prior to that I worked with the Marketing and Sales teams for a distributor of a well-known dog food brand through Veterinary Clinics. I was also responsible for the sponsorship of the products to dog clubs for their Shows and had a close relationship with the Dogs NZ Annual Show.

I love animals, especially horses, dogs and cats and have owned pedigree dogs and have brought home several rescue dogs from the Animal Control Centre in Seaview over the years. I am a non-visiting member of Canine Friends Pet Therapy as I prefer being an Administrator on the Committee.

I was invited, by Eileen, to join the Committee in 2013 and have been responsible for the production of the Canine Newsletter since 2014. My previous volunteer experience was as a member of the Equestrian Sports NZ Eventing National Board and spent over 25 years as a Committee member on the Wellington Eventing Committee in the roles of Event organiser, Secretary and President.

I enjoy being associated and working with the lovely people of this organisation and committee and would like to put myself forward for re-election to the Canine Friends Pet Therapy committee for this coming 2020/2021 year.

Sandy McAllen from Whanganui

My name is Sandy McAllen and I am the Liaison Officer for Canine Friends Pet Therapy, Whanganui. I have formerly been involved with Guide dogs and the Blind Foundation. After our beautiful Golden Retriever, Abbot, (8 yrs) had a Mast Cell Tumour removed and was retired as a stud dog, becoming a Canine Friend has been a wonderful way for him to continue his 'pawfect' work in the community. We also have a Labrador, Vera (eleven years) and a Corgi X, Lucky (17 yrs!).

Helen Moriarty from Wellington

Helen Moriarty has just handed over the Whitby-J'ville Liaison Officer role to take over the Wellington Central Liaison Officer role when Margaret Ranum moves to another district. Helen brings 40 years of committee experience, both in the paid workforce and voluntary sectors. She is a retired Health Professional, specialised in rehabilitation. Helen and Ciarrai (pronounced Kerry) really miss their visits to Malvina Major hospital and hope to be able to get back to visiting soon.

Gabriella Robertson from Christchurch

When I was younger, I used to be absolutely terrified of dogs. When I met my husband and I was very unwell, my husband showed me how healing and comforting the presence of a dog can be. Also, when my mother-in-law was diagnosed with Early-Onset Alzheimer's at 54 years old, we used to "rent" our friend's dogs for her to calm her anxiety. When she moved into a rest home three years later, we struggled to find a care facility that had scheduled animal therapy. Luckily, we found a facility with a Live-In chocolate lab named Marlin who is often the only one who can calm Sue down when she is having fits.

We essentially rushed buying our first home to get a dog of our own to take to visit Sue as well. Our girl Murph has been such a light in our lives and in Sue's. She understands both English and Te Reo and we often do yoga together. When I discovered Canine Friends through someone I went to school with, we were delighted to be assessed and accepted. I knew this organisation was special and was thrilled to be appointed as Christchurch Events Coordinator and Christchurch Placements Officer.

I am ambitious and passionate about spreading the word about Canine Friends and what we can do for those who are unwell or who have lost the ability to have a dog of their own. I am currently a Business Systems Analyst and feel my skills in IT, training, and governance will transfer well to the role of Committee Member. In my first three months as Events Coordinator, I successfully organised three events including one with the University of Canterbury.



I am so grateful to Canine Friends for giving us purpose after my mother-in-law was placed in a home. I am keen to help Canine Friends expand and spread the word about what an incredible organisation it is. I have met some incredible humans and animals alike in my short time here and know I have so much more to give.

David Verrinder from Wellington

I have been a member of CFPT for three and a half years along with my Golden Retriever Rafa. My working background is in the high technology recruitment sector mostly recruiting for North American companies who wish to develop and expand their operations in the Asia Pacific region.