

Nominations for the National Committee AGM 2021

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 1990s' as a volunteer and committee member. Founder Eileen Curry had a wonderful vision, and it is 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 1990's.

I have been an honorary member since 2015 and held the position of president for two years and funding coordinator for four years. I have developed a good relationship with our sponsors and supporters.

I established Canine Friends Taupo in 2009 and have enjoyed building and supporting the membership base. I was acting liaison officer Waikato for eighteen months and through these experiences have a sound understanding of coordinating and managing volunteers.

I enjoy working with and supporting 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.

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 several technology innovations such as putting in Wild Apricot (our membership management system); moving our accounts to Xero; adding an electronic store to the website for clothing orders and using video conferencing for our meetings. I have a pug (Summer) who is no longer visiting and a rescue dog (Cane) who aspires to be a Canine Friend when he grows up. This year he was assessed by 20 Liaison Officers at their annual Liaison Officer Day, and they gave us some great tips to work on.

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 2021/22).



Treasurer: Dallas Hopkins from Christchurch

I'm currently the Corporate Accountant at AgResearch in Lincoln, 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 audit, 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 9 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.

I am happy to continue with the role of Treasurer (or just to be on the general committee for 2021/22).



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

Rachel Butler from Auckland

I am the owner/instructor of Take the Lead Dog Training (www.takethelead.co.nz). 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. I have been on the CFPT National 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 five 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 3 years. It is a very busy but enjoyable role and my geography of New Zealand has improved immensely! I have really enjoyed working and getting to know the extremely dedicated Liaison Officers and Assessors throughout New Zealand.

A small chocolate miniature poodle (Coco) came to live with Murphy and me the day we entered Level 4 Lockdown in 2020 so have spent most of my time trying! to tell her I am the leader of the pack! She has got other ideas! so may take some time before she is a good Canine Friends Pet Therapy dog! She is now 1 year 5 months old, and SLOWLY! Is starting to realize I am boss. Murphy is now 14 years old and tolerates Coco most of the time!

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 2021/22

Carol Drew from Auckland

I have been on the Canine Friends Pet Therapy committee for a year now and over this time have seen how I could help by using my skills as a Counsellor (registered with the NZ Association of Counsellors) to compliment what the other committee members do so professionally.

I have actioned an initiative called **Volunteer Mentor** to be available to our members for any queries, concerns or questions arising whilst being under the umbrella of Canine Friends Pet Therapy.

My miniature poodle (Venus) and I have been a part of Canine Friends for 5 years now and have been to many facilities for help with critical incidents and in my own Practise and we now visit Middlemore to the Critical Care unit, High Dependency unit and Spinal unit. We also visit groups when we are available.

I love how an animal can bring a smile and such joy not only to the patients but to the staff too!!(and don't they need it with the exceptional care they give us)?

As a firm believer in Animal Assisted Therapy – I also work with horses helping people and am in awe of what animals can teach us, if only we would listen, wait, watch and wonder with them.



My services are most certainly open for Canine Friends Pet Therapy for at least another year if desired.

Sandy Fea from Wellington

I first met Eileen Curry in 1988 when I was on the lookout for a Golden Retriever puppy. As a child I grew up with many different animals. When married with our own home it wasn't long before my first dog being a Lab X joined my family, followed by a German Shepherd. When my lab x passed away, I spotted an advertisement in the paper from the Central Golden Retriever Club and my love for Goldens began from there.

My two children were independent by then so I decided to dabble in breed showing with my gorgeous clever 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 to the Judges Panel.

I joined Canine Friends when it first started up but as I worked full time and most weekends competed in many dog sports, I didn't have the time to visit until I retired. I visited 3 wards in the Lower Hutt Hospital, Stokeswood Retirement home and Shona MFarlane retirement home for three years with my Goldens Lexi, Holly and then Tara. I found it too much when my elderly mother needed my help so now only do weekly visits to Shona McFarlane and recently Aroha. On occasion other places that need 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 although not recently. At the moment I'm attending puppy class with my 5-month-old Golden Retriever 'Breeze' who I'm hoping will be visiting wearing her red scarf in the future, once she hopefully passes assessment naturally!

I have enjoyed being a part of the lovely CFPT committee that do such a wonderful job and would like to remain a part of the 2022 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 2021/2022 year.

Scott Mansfield from Christchurch

Originally from England, I have been a member of Canine Friends for two and a half years with my Japanese Spitz, Castiel. I knew about Canine Friends from when the Christchurch team visited the University of Canterbury where I work, and I loved seeing the stress disappear from the students during exam week. I too wanted to make a difference and enrich the lives of others by joining this great organisation. I live with my partner Adeline who also visits with Canine Friends and we have one other dog, a Staffordshire bull terrier cross, called Bella, who is a rescue.

Recently an opportunity presented itself to join the committee and oversee the social media and website side of Canine Friends. I took the opportunity as I can contribute my skills to help the organisations and I have an interest in governance and learning more around policies and decision making.

What do I bring the committee?

- Web developer by trade I can assist with the website and social media. I also have experience in designing images, document management systems and general computer troubleshooting such as email.
- Currently doing my Masters of Business Administration, which covers topics such as leadership, digital transformation, handling of data, sustainability, innovation and strategy.
- Recently joined the Institute of Directors NZ, which will give me access to a wealth of information around governance and growing a business.
- I am very passionate and want to contribute my ideas and experiences to grow Canine Friends to ensure it is sustainable, continue to add value to the community and continue Eileen's legacy.



Helen Moriarty from Wellington

Helen Moriarty is currently the Liaison Officer for Wellington Central. Prior to that she was Liaison Officer for Whitby-Johnsonville.

Helen visits Malvina Major Hospital weekly with Ciarrai, a nearly-4-year-old Cavoodle.

Helen is a retired health professional with over 40 years of work in the health sector, as a rehabilitation specialist, researcher and lecturer.

Ciarra is very much at home visiting aged care facilities, he started early, before joining Canine Friends he was allowed to visit Helen's father as a puppy and showed aptitude even then.



Helen brings more than 40 years of committee experience in both the professional and voluntary sectors.

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 of anxiety.



We essentially rushed buying our first home to get a dog of our own to take to visit Sue. Our girl, Murph, has been such a light in our lives and in Sue's. Murphy 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 Manager.

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 Senior Project Manager and feel my skills in IT, training, and governance will transfer well to the role of Committee Member. 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.