



**caninefriends**  
**pet therapy**  
Dogs helping people



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# AGM: President's report

Supplied by Vicky Graham, President

I was pleased to present my report at our third online Annual General Meeting, on 9 June 2022, to provide an overview of events and initiatives for the last financial year.

This is our 32nd year of visiting rest homes, hospitals, hospices, correction centres, colleges and universities with 664 members and 457 facilities on our database. Despite yet another challenging 12 months with limited opportunities to visit we remain positive in the knowledge our work is widely recognised and appreciated by many. Being mindful of the impact of COVID-19 on our lives, our priority has been to see existing members return to their regular visiting programmes and to support them in doing so, and we have been mindful of maintaining regular communication with members to encourage a sense of belonging.

## Strategic Highlights

Our alliance with the NZ Society of Diversional and Recreational Therapists has been most beneficial particularly regarding COVID-19 and visiting restrictions and regulations.

I attended the annual conference in New Plymouth last August and enjoyed the opportunity to meet therapists, show our Power Point presentation and run workshop sessions which provided an insight into our work.

Unfortunately, our visits to correction centres have been on hold but we know visiting will recommence whenever possible.

Earlier this year we were approached by NZCare Group, an arm of the Ministry of Health which provides residential homes in the community for those with physical and intellectual disabilities. We have also received requests for regular visits to Dementia Day Care Centres.

## Operating Highlights

Despite uncertain times several Liaison Officers held Founder's Day events during May to celebrate Eileen Curry.

Members who had reached one, three, five and 10 years' service were provided with appreciation certificates. Thank you to our sponsor Ziwi for meeting the cost of these.

## Partnerships

We have entered the fifth year of our partnership with NZ pet food company Ziwi which has provided support across several areas of our operations.

We are also very grateful to Dogs New Zealand for supporting us to bring our Liaison Officers together each year for training, sharing



Zoom in action.

ideas and showing our appreciation of their work. Due to COVID-19 this event has been postponed from March to September.

Thank you for also providing us with space in this monthly publication, which gives us the opportunity to feature all aspects of who we are and what we do.

Sincere thanks to Steven Thompson and his team for supporting and appreciating the part we play in New Zealand's dog scene.

## Acknowledgements

To our members, thank you for remaining a part of Canine Friends despite limited opportunities to visit. We will 'get there' and it will be even more rewarding!

To our Liaison Officers, you are crucial to the functioning of Canine Friends; without you, Canine Friends wouldn't exist.

Once again I feel privileged to have spent time with the committee members, both at meetings and over telephone conversations. It is difficult to describe the reassuring feeling of knowing we share a passion which underpins this organisation.

Finally, to everyone who is part of the Canine Friends family — never underestimate the difference you make and the lives you touch. 🐾

If you and your dog would like to join us, please visit: [www.caninefriends.org.nz](http://www.caninefriends.org.nz)