



caninefriends
pet therapy
Dogs helping people



Proudly supported by Dogs New Zealand

Welcome, Marke Vette

Supplied by Vicky Graham, President

Our regional Liaison Officers are an integral part of our organisation. Without them, Canine Friends Pet Therapy couldn't function. As a way of showing appreciation of their work, the committee arranges to bring them together to share their experiences and, most importantly, meet each other and the committee in person.

On 3 September 2022, we welcomed a great representation from far and wide. Over the course of the day, we covered a packed agenda with a variety of topics including a video of dogs being assessed by Rachel Butler in Auckland, a policy quiz, tips and tricks on our technology and several open discussions. Steven Thompson, Director/Secretary Dogs New Zealand, updated us on current initiatives and projects he and his team are working on.

Thank you to Dogs NZ for your support in holding this event for our Liaison Officers.

On 19 September we announced the appointment of Mark Vette as our new patron. Mark is a renowned animal behaviourist, zoologist and trainer who has been studying and training dogs for more than 40 years. Mark's training teaches the basic foundations for establishing a loving, sound relationship which makes for a stable, happy and well-adjusted companion.

Mark's innate understanding of dogs fits perfectly with the values of our organisation. He appreciates the strong bond between people and dogs and the power of the non-judgemental love dogs provide. As we all know, they help create

friendships, break down barriers and support people during anxious times.

Mark says he is honoured to be Patron and is delighted to support our work: "I feel strongly about the power of the relationship between people and dogs. Dogs have evolved alongside us for tens of thousands of years. It is a unique and special relationship. When we gaze into our dog's eyes and they look into ours, we are both flooded with oxytocin (the love hormone) and good feeling.

"Canine Friends' work is built on this amazing, beautiful relationship, allowing people who don't have access to a dog to experience this wonderful, loving contact. This work is mutually beneficial to dogs and people alike. Dogs thrive on having a purpose and relish social contact and pats they get too."

We welcomed Mark via Zoom at our Liaison



Officer Day and enjoyed hearing of his work and his research on the scientific benefits of pet facilitated therapy. 🐾



If you and your dog would like to join us, please visit: www.caninefriends.org.nz