



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



Proudly supported by Dogs New Zealand

# Christmas Visits

Supplied by Vicky Graham, President

Needless to say 2022 was yet another interesting and challenging year for us all, but let's not dwell on that!

While we don't expect our members to continue visiting during the festive and holiday season, many do and get so much pleasure from brightening someone's day over a time which can be lonely and sad for some.

As you will see from these photos, our members and dogs excelled themselves during the days leading up to Christmas. Our Manawatu team actually held their Christmas gathering in the grounds of Bupa Riverstone Home in Palmerston North with the residents being part of the festivities.

Volunteering New Zealand ([www.volunteeringnz.org.nz](http://www.volunteeringnz.org.nz)) publishes a report, *State of Volunteering in Aotearoa New Zealand*, which tells us that volunteers enjoy the social side of their community work. We acknowledge this by encouraging our members to pair up on their visits. Seeing a variety of dogs can be stimulating, often leading to conversations with residents in facilities.

Each year, we also attend many group visits to universities, technical institutes, corporates and day care centres which are also a social event for members and their dogs.

Studies show volunteering is helpful with respect to stress reduction, and we know that stress is linked to health issues. The act of sharing our dogs with those in need is part of the 'giving' process: making someone happy gives us a sense of purpose.

Thank you to all our members. Let's look forward to a bright, safe and happy 2023. 🐾



Leroy, owned by Di Davies, visits the Alzheimers Centre in Blenheim.



MoreMore & Moonpie, Whanganui



Monique Maisey's Ernie and his little sister Olive with Santa. Ernie goes to St Margaret's Rest Home in Te Atatu, Auckland; Olive - still a pup! - is a future canine friend.



Toby and Sam, owned by Leanne Harkness, Napier, visiting Princess Alexandra Hospital.

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





Gracey owned by Ann Connor, visiting Auckland Hospital.



Buddy & Nancy owned by Anne-Marie de Jong, Auckland.



Isla owned by Any de Boer, Wellington visiting Karori Village Medlifecycle.



Bodhi Bing Bong and Tania.



Ryder.



Cavaliers and Dachshunds owned by Lois Jones and Kaye Harkness, Palmerston North.



Thumpa by the Christmas tree at Ranfurly RCC, Feilding.



Zara & Mocha



Lillie.



# Something Special

Alison and her lovely black Labrador Hannah are part of our Auckland team. They visit at Waitakere College Inclusion Support Centre. Alison writes:

"It has been great to see the students' confidence grow around Hannah. I've been working with Hannah to reach up to their level so those in wheelchairs can stroke her. She's been doing really well and the teachers/carers get just as much of a therapy session seeing her as everyone else! It has been a privilege to help these young adults grow."

Yvette is an Occupational Therapist at the Inclusion Support Centre, she writes:

"On behalf of the teachers and students at Waitakere College Inclusion Support Centre, I would like to thank Canine Friends Pet Therapy for connecting us with Hannah and her handler Alison."

"Hannah has brought learning opportunities, fun, and joy to our centre when she visits."

"Over time, we have seen noticeable improvements in some students who experienced anxiety around dogs, which is certainly attributed to Hannah's gentle ways and Alison's unwavering patience and understanding." 🐾



## WANTED

### Breed Features



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You or your club can submit a range of articles of interest on your breed along with up a selection of high-quality photos. and that's it! We will do the rest.

If you can secure any advertising to go with the feature then this is a great bonus but is not a requirement for publication.

**Email: [magazine@dogs NZ.org.nz](mailto:magazine@dogs NZ.org.nz) for more information and for our guide to assembling a breed feature.**

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