



caninefriends
pet therapy
Dogs helping people



Proudly supported by Dogs New Zealand

AGM 2023: President's report

Supplied by Vicky Graham, President

I was pleased to present my report at our fourth online AGM to provide an overview of events and initiatives for the last financial year.

Having worked through yet another challenging twelve months due to COVID-19, our priority has been to facilitate members to resume their visiting. Thanks to our Liaison Officers and members working with facility staff, we have seen the majority of our teams sharing their dogs once again.

We are always mindful of the importance of communication and I am pleased to note our membership level has remained stable over the past two years.

Strategic Highlights

Our alliance with the NZ Society of Diversional and Recreational Therapists underpins our relationship with therapists in facilities. We are currently working with the society by way of a nationwide survey to gauge how we can improve our services in their places of work.

We are currently arranging a visiting programme to commence at Christchurch Women's Correction Centre and our teams have resumed at other centres.

In August 2022 we were pleased to announce Mark Vette, renowned animal behaviourist, zoologist and trainer, as our Patron.

Earlier this year we were accredited by the Ministry of Justice to undertake Criminal Record Checks. This requirement of District Health Boards and aged care facilities is becoming more apparent.

Operating Highlights

Many of our Liaison Officers held events during May last year to celebrate our founder, Eileen Curry, made even more significant following Eileen's passing the previous month.

As part of member recognition, we ran a second photo competition and gave our members the opportunity to purchase branded clothing.

Partnerships

As of 31 March, our five-year partnership with Ziwi came to a close. This support has enabled us to extend our reach into communities and enhance our work by providing support and appreciation to our members.

Last September the committee had a very successful day of training and discussion with our Liaison Officers and Assessors, made possible by our partnership with Dogs New Zealand. This partnership also gives us access to New Zealand's dog community

through monthly features in this magazine. This regular exposure over time has raised awareness of the value of pet therapy and has increased the number of applications from dog-savvy people who want to share their dogs with others.

Our sincere thanks to Steven Thompson, Director/Secretary and his team, for supporting and recognising our work.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to our members for the immeasurably valuable work you do to brighten the days of others. Never underestimate the difference you make.

To our Liaison Officers: without you, Canine Friends could not function. Many of you have given several years of commitment which is very much appreciated and heartening to know you share your experience with your members.

To the entire committee: your energy, willingness and passion is a driving force. You each play an important part to ensure Canine Friends moves forward and delivers with professionalism, credibility and empathy. It is my belief we embrace traditional values and innovative ideas.

Finally, let's acknowledge our dogs:

"We give dogs time we can spare, space we can spare and love we can spare. And in return dogs gives us their all. It's the best deal man has ever made". Margery Facklam 🐾



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