

## Nominations for the National Committee AGM 2023

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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 have held the position of president for the last four years and funding and sponsorship coordinator for six years. Over this time, I have fostered relationships with our sponsor 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, our liaison officers and members and am totally committed to doing my best in the interest of Canine Friends while continuing Eileen's values and vision.

**Secretary: Leanne Gibson from Wellington**

I've been a member of the Committee since 2015 and have undertaken several 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 has a few too many quirks to be a Canine Friend.

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 2023/24 if there was someone keen to learn the role of Secretary).



**Treasurer: Paulette Shearer from Christchurch**

I've been a member of Canine Pet Therapy since 2015, and the Treasurer since 2022. I have always worked in positions of bookkeeping/GST preparation/accountancy (although am not a qualified accountant and would not be able to complete the records to an end of year scenario); and am very conversant with Xero, ipayroll, and workflow. I have two corgis – Pippa a black and white Cardigan, and Art a Pembroke. (The photo also includes Buddy, an Australia border collie who, though not part of our family, spends a lot of time at our home). I look forward to another year working as your Treasurer and with the team that make up the Committee.



**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](http://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.
- **Previously**, an 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 and currently hold the roles of Liaison Officer Support and Vice President.

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 2023/24.





## Sandy Fea from Lower Hutt

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 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 Golden Retrievers began from there.



Eileen was the contact person and as there was a huge demand for puppies at that time I had to wait before there was a litter available. I pestered her so much in the 3 months of waiting, that we became great friends. She gave me a young Golden Retriever that was found roaming the streets to look after for a couple of weeks until the owner was found, I'm sure it was to shut me up, and when the owner showed up, I had to relinquish her. I had grown to love her in that time, so I think that helped as Eileen organized a puppy in the next couple of days. It was about that time that Canine Friends was formed.

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 for Championship shows.

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, Stokes wood Retirement home and Shona McFarlane retirement home for three years

with my Golden Retrievers 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. I'm training my young Golden Retriever 'Breeze' who I'm hoping will be visiting wearing her red scarf in the future, once she hopefully passes assessment naturally! At the moment she loves people a little too much and needs time.

I'm currently a joint Liaison Officer for Lower Hutt, sharing with Brenda Kenworthy. I have been on the committee since 2019 and have undertaken a variety of roles and tasks involving newsletter logistics, presentations to key stakeholders and production of custom-made scarves. 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 2023/24 committee.



### **Beverley Jocelyn from Masterton**

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 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 from 2014 to 2022. 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 year.



### **Hannah Li from Whanganui**

I'm originally from Hong Kong but moved to Auckland at the age of 9 with my family. Before I graduated from the University of Auckland in 2005 (Majoring in Television Film and Media), I was a qualified pet groomer and dog trainer working at Qualified Pet Services Takanini (2000-2003). Because of my knowledge of dogs and social media, I had an opportunity to work as a part-time journalist at a pet magazine while also working full time as a qualified/licensed senior financial consultant in one of the biggest companies in Hong Kong (2006-2010).



In 2015, I returned to New Zealand and moved to Whanganui with my husband and daughter. I joined Canine Friends in 2019 after ending two of my retail businesses and became a full-time mum. Since my daughter started school, I have had more time to follow my own dreams; and joining Canine Friends was one of them. During my time as a member, I have been visiting our local rest homes and enjoyed every minute. I became a Liaison Officer for Whanganui in 2021 and ever since then, I have taken the opportunity to learn more about how Canine Friends runs. Currently, I am an advisor for the Welcoming community for the Whanganui City Council as well as being a qualified court and medical interpreter.

Since 2022, I have taken on the role of Applications and Supplies Manager and have streamlined the process of sending out new member kits and supplies. More More my 12-year-old Chihuahua is very friendly and happy, but he will soon be retiring from visiting and Moonpie (my daughter's Chihuahua) who joined Canine Friends last year, will take up the role to be visiting more often.



### **Scott Mansfield from Christchurch**

Originally from England, I have been in New Zealand for 12 years now. I knew about Canine Friends Pet Therapy 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 have been a member of Canine Friends Pet Therapy for four and a half years with my Japanese Spitz, Castiel. I have one other dog, a Staffordshire bull terrier cross, called Bella, who is a rescue.

My committee role for the last two years was to oversee social media by responding to questions and posting content. I took the opportunity to join the committee to contribute my skills to help the organisation and to develop my own interests in governance, policies, and decision-making.



### **What do I bring to 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. Working in this field means I need to stay ahead of the latest trends and technology, which I can use to advise the organisation.
- Recently completed my Master of Business Administration (MBA), which covers topics such as leadership, digital transformation, handling of data, sustainability, innovation, and strategy. I did my final project on Canine Friends Pet Therapy to help the organisation progress further and bring more value to volunteers.
- 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.

### **Mo Maisey from Auckland**

Kia ora - my name is Monique Maisey. I live in West Auckland with my two wee corgis Ernie (7) and Olive (1), their big brother cat Alfie, and my husband Will.

Ernie and I joined Canine Friends in late 2019 after reading a news article online about the organisation. We were placed in the lovely St Margaret's Rest Home in Te Atatu Peninsula in March 2020. We finally got to meet our friends a bit later that year and ever since we've been visiting every second Wednesday and just adore our visits. Ernie takes his therapy job very seriously, he gets loved on and treated like a celebrity, and one of the residents even has a treat draw just for him. He sits and listens to their stories and smiles, getting all the pats, I just love seeing the joy that goes both ways between Ernie and his friends. We would spend all day there if we could.

I am interested in joining the Canine Friends committee to give more time to this fantastic organisation and cause. Here's a bit more about me and what I can bring to the committee:

- My background is in marketing and communications, working with people, partners and member orgs and running events. I am currently a Marketing Manager at Tataki Auckland Unlimited, Auckland's economic development agency.
- Volunteering is important to me, and I have volunteered and supported marketing charity events for 10x10 Auckland, a crowd-sourcing philanthropy event series along with my time with Canine Friends
- I would love to use my marketing and people skills to help Canine Friends Pet Therapy continue to grow and prosper.
- Recently I became the Canine Friends Co-ordinator for West Auckland members and enjoyed hosting the 2023 Founders Day
- I think dogs are the best kind of 'people' out and have so much to give to our communities through Canine Friends

Many thanks,  
Monique Maisey (and Ernie)

### **Helen Moriarty from Kapiti**

Helen has been a Committee Member since 2020.

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

Helen was Wellington Central Liaison Officer until handing over to Kim Riwai in March 2023 and prior to that she was Liaison Officer for Whitby-Johnsonville. In recent years Helen has mentored three new Liaison Officers into their roles.

Her beautiful dog, 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. When they lived in Wellington, they visited the hospital wings at Malvina Major weekly. Helen and Ciarra now go weekly to Eldon Home and Hospital in Paraparaumu. Ciarra has been going there for almost a year and has made many new friends and admirers amongst the Eldon residents and their whanau in that time.



### **Stephanie Robertson from Lower Hutt**

Stephanie joined the Committee in early-2023 as Communications Manager. She brings a wealth of experience in communications, digital, social media and marketing, having worked in the industry in public sector, private sector and NFP roles for more than a decade.



Stephanie gained her Master of Communication from Massey University in 2022, adding to the Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics, Graduate Diploma in Business Studies, and several certificates in TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) she already held.

Stephanie has been around dogs and dog training her whole life, having grown up with Police dogs and owned several beautiful Schnauzers over the years. In 2018, she and her partner bought their first home and not long after got a Labradoodle puppy. Moose, now 4, was certified to begin visiting homes in Lower Hutt in 2020. In early-2023, a second Labradoodle puppy, Cash, joined their home.

In her spare time, Stephanie does Rally-O training with Moose and volunteers at Wellington Canine Obedience Club as a Level 1 obedience assistant trainer, helping new owners build strong bonds with their puppies. She's passionate about the emotional and psychological value relationships with dogs can bring and sharing that value with others, which is one of the key reasons she volunteers for Canine Friends.

### **Kathleen Stringer from Christchurch**

Originally from Oamaru, I am now residing near Ashburton (just south of Christchurch).

I have been in Canine Friends for a year now and have taken on the role of Liaison Area co-ordinator for the newly formed mid-Canterbury area.

I am enjoying the opportunity of visiting rest homes with my two-year-old spoodle, Brigid. Being a dog person from way back I know what an impact these bundles of joy can have on people physically and mentally. Brigid has got me through some difficult times, and it is an amazing experience being able to share the magic that she has with others.

I am a trained archivist and historian and am currently working on my PhD in history. I am a people person and enjoy helping those I meet in any way I can. As an archivist I always received a great deal of pleasure going the extra mile to assist researchers get the special piece of information they were searching for. I like making people happy.

I have held a number of positions in various groups, including those that organised national events (Oamaru's Steampunk and Victorian celebrations). Currently, I am secretary of the Archives and Records Association of NZ. I am a team player and give my all to any group I belong to.

I would like to offer my enthusiasm and commitment to Canine Friends as a Membership Experience Officer.