



Welcome to all members, friends and supporters



Above: Bobby bringing comfort to a patient in Rotorua.



Above: Joan Thompson and Libby during a visit at Summerset Stoke.



Above: Scout brings joy whenever she visits residents at Linda Jones Retirement Village.



Above: Frankie loves that tummy-rub life whenever he visits Victoria University of Wellington.



Paws & Relax providing value for both volunteers and students

Being away from home at university can be hard and isolating, especially if you are missing your pets. Meredith and Lulu (Golden Retriever) have recently started volunteering with Canine Friends and were invited to visit Victoria University of Wellington (VUW) for their Paws & Relax week. They visited with Stephanie Robertson and Moose (Australian Labradoodle). Lulu was very popular, especially with her bright pink tail (which she recently had dyed to match her fun and outgoing personality), while Moose made an impact with his curly coat and adorable, smiley face.



The students loved meeting Lulu and Moose and both dogs were spoilt with cuddles. They were all very grateful to be invited to visit VUW and spread some smiles. They are looking forward to visiting again later in the year around exam time when they can again provide some much-needed support.

Lulu and Meredith are becoming regular Canine Friends volunteers and have been visiting a number of rest homes in the Lower Hutt region. Meredith says she's really enjoying volunteering with Lulu because it means she gets to share her love of dogs with others.

"I believe that doggy kisses are essential for everyone. Volunteering with Canine Friends has been incredibly rewarding for both myself and Lulu and we are honoured to be part of the organisation and to be able to help those we visit. The impact for us has been tremendous, especially when we get to visit people who are lonely or struggling, like those in dementia wards or in hospice care. Seeing the joy that Lulu brings to these people when she meets them is a privilege."

— Meredith Patterson, Lower Hutt

Your 2023 Canine Friends Pet Therapy Committee

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- Remember to view and use the Canine Friends Pet Therapy website if you have a question or require information — www.caninefriends.org.nz
- Please view our Youtube channel to see more about our dogs — www.youtube.com/channel/UCdnZJ4LaiApt2bLpdssY2rA

Thank you so much for sending your photos! Please don't be disappointed if they don't appear in this newsletter; we receive a lot of wonderful pictures and do our best to publish a balanced selection.

President's report

What a busy few weeks it has been with so much happening around the country — lots of group visits to universities, colleges and corporates, and our children-reading-to-dogs programmes are becoming more popular. No doubt lots of children will be looking forward to reading to our dogs in libraries over the school holidays.

In July, Wanda Vivequin and her lovely Border Collie, Biskit, featured on Seven Sharp while visiting the children's ward at Christchurch Hospital. Not surprisingly, this lovely video generated many new applications and requests from hospitals.

In August, three committee members (Leanne Gibson, Helen Moriarty and Sandy Fea — accompanied by their dogs of course), attended the NZ Society of Diversional and Recreational Therapists' conference in Wellington. The therapists had been given a choice of various workshops; ours proved very popular with 40 attending, interacting with the dogs and asking questions. This was also a good opportunity to gauge how the therapists see our work and tell us of their expectations.

Our five-year agreement with Ziwi Peak came to a close and the end of April, and on 1 September, we entered into a new partnership with Nexgard Spectra, the world's number one brand in protecting pets against parasites.

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On 2 September, we held our annual Liaison Officer Day at the Brentwood Hotel in Wellington. While we had a full agenda covering policies and initiatives, it also gave the liaison officers time to meet the committee, each other, and to discuss different aspects of their roles. We were delighted to also have Steven Thomson, Director and Secretary of DogsNZ, with us this year to share a few words and join us for lunch.

Finally, I hope you keep well, have time to enjoy the beautiful colours Spring gives us, and have fun with your dogs.

— Vicky Graham



Above: The Committee and LOs, and Steven Thomson from DogsNZ, pose outside the Brentwood Hotel at the 2023 Liaison Officer Day.

Out and about



Clockwise from top-left:

- Shannon McGarry's Luci (Great Dane) in front of the Volunteer Programme board at Burwood Hospital.
- Denva (German Shepherd) getting love from a resident at Moana House.
- Some of the Auckland East & South team out for a Founder's Day walk.
- A sunny Founder's Day for the Foxton-Levin team.
- Eden and Cleo (Golden Retriever) ahead of their first visit to IDEA Services.



Clockwise from top-left:

- Jo posing with Mila and Elly after receiving her certificate of appreciation at the Manawatu Founder's Day event.
- Paddington (Golden Retriever) visiting with overseas tertiary students at IPU in Manawatu.
- Sola (Dachshund) being spoiled with treats from residents at a Taupo facility during National Dog Week.
- Hamilton members visiting Waikato Uni to help with student wellbeing.
- Some of the Manawatu team commemorating dogs who served in the world wars for Purple Poppy Day at Woodlands of Feilding.



New Members: October 2023

Auckland

Sophia-Nicole Alexeeva-Lum & Tessie (Shih Tzu)
Mars Coombes & Norbert (Mini Schnauzer)
Debbie Dun & Penny (Miniature Portuguese Poodle)
Ruth Hobday & Della (Cavoodle)
Kathleen Jury & Daisy (Standard Poodle)
Michelle Le Long & Buster (British Bulldog)
Kate McIntyre & Buddy (Golden Retriever)
Katrina Ritchie & Seb (Whippet X)
Sharnae Silich & Eddie (Mixed Breed)
Kim Sisson & Lachie (Mixed Breed)
Anne Smyth & Loki (Pompapoo)
Heather Worley and Lexie Rosser & Molly (Border Collie)

Blenheim

Chris Steadman & Pip (Poodle-Tibetan Terrier X)

Christchurch

Charlotte Ayers & Rona (West Highland Terrier)
Genna McLaughlin & Cooper (Golden Retriever-Border Collie X)
Claire Scott & Leo Bear (Labradoodle)
Leanne Thomson & Zowie (Golden Retriever)
Angela Cordon & Ted (Labradoodle)
Tatiana Dubovitskaya & Fendi (Maltese X)
Marian McCrory and Tim Roulston & Rosie (Golden Retriever)
Pen Naish & Steve Brown (Chocolate Labrador)

Foxton/Levin

Sharon Williams & Oslo (Spoodle)

Hastings

Emma McKay & Monty (Red Border Collie)

Invercargill

Bex Devery & Rosie (Tibetan Spaniel)
Bree-anna van der Oest & Oliver (Border Collie)

Kāpiti

Brynn Andrews & Benny (Labrador Mix)
Alana Nation & Teddy (Labradoodle)
Michelle von Keisenberg & Summer (Golden Retriever)

Manawatu

Liz Chandler & Daisy (Toy Poodle-Bichon Frisé X)
Bevan Johnstone & Willow (Weimaraner)
Kevin Reilly & Stella (Rottweiler)
Catherine Williams & Myrtle (Lowchen)
Marie Williams & Mila (Black Russian Terrier)

Napier

Maggie Braviner & Rusty (Groodle)
Helena Janols & Brumma (Labradoodle)

Nelson-Tasman

Sammy Garrett & Misty (Border Collie)
Morgen Nimmo & Luna (Labradoodle)
Meg Robertson & Sunny (Golden Retriever)

Queenstown

Janelle Coombe & Millie (Golden Retriever)
Tiffany Mitchell & Dax (Swiss-Belgian Shepherd X)
Jane Shaw & Taika (Spaniel-Labrador X)

Taranaki

Courtney Goldsworthy & Zephyr (Leonberger)
Selina Mackie & Walter (Portuguese Water Dog)
Summer Stewart-Heather & Ally (Rottweiler X)

Tauranga

Tracey Joubert & Sammy (Shihtzu)
Tanya Smith and Andre Bouterey & Oliver (Cavalier King Charles Spaniel)
David Tustin & Ollie (Shih Tzu-Miniature Poodle X)

Mark Morgan & Harrison (Golden Retriever-Collie X)

Waikato

Anne Collumbell & Gem (Cardigan Welsh Corgi)
Sal Whitcombe & Tequila (Rottweiler)

Wellington

Catherine Solari & Jett (Cavoodle)
Anna Wahl and Zara Vaughan & Frida (Springador)

Whanganui

Alison Olsen & Batman (Greyhound)

Whitby-Johnsonville

Sharon Davison & Harley (Cavoodle)
Richard Johnson & Rocco (Border Collie)
Erin Schalles & Annika (Golden Labrador)

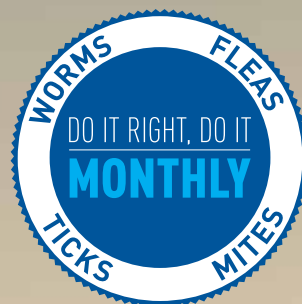
Out & About



Above-top: Stella bonds with Toby at a blessing of the animals at Scots Presbyterian in Hamilton.

Above-bottom: Thumper's pleased to see Graeme at Wimbledon Aged Care in Feilding.

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Brock's story

It is with a tinge of sadness I report that Brock had his last day visiting rest homes in Taupō and Taumaranui recently, but being part of a group visiting for National Dog Day also made this visit special.

In the last six weeks we have noticed a change in Brock's general demeanour, starting with a limp that has been diagnosed as arthritis in each leg. Brock's treatment started with a series of injections, which didn't result in any sign of improvement; these were then changed to a new type that resulted in a considerable change to his mobility, and as you can imagine, I was very excited and relieved. However, during a visit to Wharerangi Rest Home in Taupō today, he struggled.

Brock and I have made some amazing friends at Avonlea Rest Home in Taumaramui, Summerset By The Lake, and St.John's Wood in Taupō. We became very attached to many residents and have even been invited to attend family funerals.

Several months ago, Joy, a dear friend, passed away at St.John's Wood. I met Joy through her husband, Peter, during lockdown when he was sitting in his wheelchair in a hallway. A caregiver asked him if he liked dogs, he said yes and that he would like to see Brock regularly. Learning that this was the most Peter had spoken for some time was a special moment for me. The day after Peter passed away, I learned Joy was also a resident and the staff insisted I visit her. This was the start of many lovely moments. Peter and Joy had owned a Labrador so Brock became very special to them.

My father was also a resident at St.Johns Wood, and when he passed away I found it difficult to continue my visits there but also realised the other residents so enjoyed seeing Brock.

Despite Brock's diagnosis, we have since visited Taupō and Taumaranui Hospitals, visits which he seems to be managing as they aren't as long as going to a rest home. I have also bought him gripper socks to help him manage on the polished hospital floors. Being an ex-nurse, I was delighted to meet up with two girls I worked with in Taumaranui Hospital and another I trained with. This wouldn't have happened had I not been a Canine Friends member. To return to a hospital environment has been therapeutic for me seeing how the staff and patients enjoy seeing Brock.

— Lynda Gulbransen, Taupō



George's story

George is an adopted 6-year-old Greyhound. He visits Fergusson Rest Home here in Rotorua every 2nd Wednesday. He is very well received and patiently moves from one resident to the next. Everyone who meets him gives him hugs and kisses which he enjoys.

I adopted George in 2021 and he has been a Canine Friend since he arrived. We walk in the Redwood Forest almost everyday and he likes to be a "Canine Friend" to every tourist that he meets. I have lost count of all the photos that have been taken of him. He is a perfect ambassador for both his breed and the Canine Friends group.

— Julie Cowell, Rotorua

We acknowledge and thank our sponsors and supporters

