



Welcome to all Members, Friends and New Members



Zara owned by Kaye Harkness visiting students at IPU, Palmerston North.



Thumpa visiting UCOL, Palmerston North.



Floss owned by Jan Leigh visiting O'Connor Rest Home and Hospital in Westport.



Ella visiting students at IPU, Palmerston North.



President's Report

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

Whilst 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 the 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 in Palmerston North with the residents being part of the festivities.

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

Each year many of you attend group visits to universities, technical institutes, corporates and day care centres which are also social events, I know these are enjoyable and rewarding for you and your 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 and to make someone happy gives us a sense of purpose.

As I write, we are reeling from the aftermath of Cyclone Gabrielle which will extend for a long time yet. My thoughts are with those affected by the devastation. We are seeing many news items on how communities have pulled together and the help offered by those who are less affected. I know of one Liaison Officer in the Hawkes' Bay who has come to the aid of many in an emergency services welfare role and another who is working hard to ensure the wellbeing of animals in her community, particularly horses.

On a brighter note, I welcome Stephanie Robertson to the committee who has filled the role of Communications Manager. Stephanie will be involved with our internal and external communications.

Thank you to all our members – what you are doing for others is pure goodness!

Vicky Graham

Your Canine Friends Pet Therapy Committee as elected 2023

President	Vicky Graham	021 104 2945	president@caninefriends.org.nz
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Committee	Annette Sheridan	027 367 1311	annette.sheridan@outlook.co.nz
Committee	Helen Moriarty	027 445 6792	wgt_n_liaisonofficer@caninefriends.org.nz
Committee	Beverley Jocelyn	06 370 2949	bjh@hotmail.co.nz

1. Please remember to view and use the Canine Friends Pet Therapy website if you have a question or require information – www.caninefriends.org.nz

2. Please view our You Tube channel to see more about our dogs. YouTube channel is – <https://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 will do our best to publish them.

In Memory of Eileen Curry, our Founder

This Anzac Day marks the first anniversary of Eileen's passing so I would like to share some special moments and snippets of her Canine Friends journey.

In 1990, Eileen realised dogs visiting rest homes and hospitals would bring comfort to many people, especially those feeling isolated, stressed and afraid. People no longer living in their own home could still benefit from the special bond between animals and humans.

A small group of dog owners participated in trials at four facilities in Wellington and the Hutt Valley with positive results – hence the beginning. In July 1990 those involved attended the inaugural meeting and decided on a name. The minutes of that meeting show the reasoning:

In recognition of the group's objective of pet therapy, the name denoting the befriending of patients by dog and handler and the warm relationships that would follow...

Ten years on Eileen said *"we have filled a niche long needed in New Zealand and we are very pleased to have achieved it"*.

Eileen never allowed age to be a barrier and continued visiting for nearly twenty years. I have a newspaper article in which she said *"volunteering is not just about altruism or wanting to give something back, it's more than that. Some days you may not want to go visiting but you know an elderly person is waiting expectantly near the door so you can't not go! It's a commitment"*.

Through a nationwide network of contacts and dog breeders, Eileen was constantly encouraging and supporting like-minded people to establish Canine Friends in their area. 32 years on, our members are visiting over 400 rest homes, 19 hospitals and 12 hospices.

Eileen was awarded a Hutt City Civic Award for her service to the community. Other highlights included featuring on the TV One Good Sorts programme. Along with Haydn Jones she visited the Masonic Rest Home in Lower Hutt with two Golden Retrievers owned by committee member, Sandy Fea. Eileen actually visited this facility thirty years ago with her own Golden.

She also joined the Rt. Hon. Dame Patsy Reddy on a visit to Te Hopai Rest Home & Hospital.

In 2019, committee member Beverley Jocelyn initiated Founder's Day, a celebration held during the month of May when members can get together and celebrate Eileen's vision. Eileen attended three of these events with our Wellington members. She was looking forward to catching up with them again last May but this wasn't to be.

Thank you Eileen, you have left a wonderful legacy which has touched and will continue to touch the hearts of so many people.

Vicky Graham



A lovely verse from Margaret Scaife, Nelson

*Eileen our Founder loved dogs,
Knowing how they can calm and can heal.
We rejoice in her Canine Friends Pet Therapy
And the way it makes older folk feel.*

*Our Chummy's therapist now
And takes it quite seriously
He goes once a week to Kensington Court
With studied efficiency.*

*First visit was into the lounge
His introduction to all
He skilfully skirted around every walker
A tail-wagging, cheerful ball.*

*Chummy knows how to find the three rooms
Of the people we visit routinely
His arrival provokes happy smiles and big hugs
He shakes hands so carefully.*

*I reap lots of benefits too
As I listen to many a tale
Of people's delightfully diverse, long lives
And the history all these entail.*

*So thank you dear Eileen, your vision endures,
I treasure the thought that I once talked with you:
Your memories of so many visits with dogs,
And the way Canine Friends grew and grew.*

A lovely selection of Christmas photos





New Members: March 2023

Auckland

Sarah Brown & Coco, Maltese Shih Tzu
Rico Horsley & Meisie (pronounced 'Macey'), Labrador X
Georgina Hutt & Kobe, Labrador
Christine Jenkins & Richie, Poodle/Labradoodle
Marie Testud & Story, Cross: Border Collie & German Shorthair pointer
Catherine Thomson & Louie, Schnoodle
Angela Zyzalo & Ned, Heading Dog
Sally and Derek, Evennett & Richie, Golden Retriever
Erin Griffey and Patrick Mulligan & Lolo, Cavoodle
Petrus Schoeman and Riaan Schoeman
& Cosmo, Black Cocker Spaniel
Ben and Helen Winrow & Molly, Border Collie cross

Blenheim

Elizabeth Young & Millie, Spoodle (mostly Cocker Spaniel)

Christchurch

Penny Anderson & Stew, Golden Retriever
Frances Backhurst & Ted, Cavoodle
Joanne Chong & Cobbie, Golden Retriever x Samoyed
Karen Christie & Frankie, Havenese
Leeann Marriott & Bobbie, King Charles/Bichon cross
Veronica Robinson & Cuz, Heading Dog/Border Collie
Evelyn Sheridan & Pearl, Maltese / Shih Tzu
Kathleen Stringer & Brigid, Spoodle
Lauren Thompson & Osha, Purebred Chocolate Labrador
Rebecca Thompson & Maisie, Border Collie
Portia Holmes & Skye, Border Collie

Foxton/Levin

Holly Clark-Mackie & Harper, Golden Retriever

Hastings

Wendy Pearson & Kassie, Labradoodle Cross
Jacqui Sims & Finn, Labradoodle

Kapiti Coast

Suze Hocking & Topaz, Keeshond

Manawatu

Chelsey Mooney & Skyla, Black Labrador
Samantha Stone & Skyla, Border Collie

Napier

Jane Muldowney & Rusty, Long Haired Jack Russell

Nelson/Tasman

Pip Collins & Nimbus Dangermouse, Whippet
Helen Macdonald & Belle, Standard Poodle
Kaye Painter & Kobe, Labradoodle
Dea Walker & Remy, Cavalier King Charles Spaniel

Rotorua

Anne Leang & Roly, Border Terrier
Susan Stanway & Nyxie, Collie x Heading Dog

Taupo

Heather Harris & Sable, Yorkie/Bichon/Pomeranian/Poodle

Tauranga

Lynn Abrahams & Ni-Shar, Golden Retriever
Robbie Ahlfeld & Ruby, Blue Border Collie
Denise Ballot & Blue, German Shepherd/Husky x Standard Poodle
Julie Finlayson & Ollie, Miniature Long Haired Dachsund
Katie Powell & Buddy, Labrador Retriever cross
Brenna Dixon & Roxy, Labradoodle
Dianne Lewis & Roxy, Labradoodle
Karen Lewis & Noodle, Bichon Frise/Poodle
Cathleen Meichtry & Evie, Spoodle AND Jamie Kissling & Boy, Miniature Poodle

Upper Hutt

Leon Labuschagne & Smokey, Staffy Mix
Beverly Steele & Molly Whuppie, Mixed breed
Ian James & Dendi, Lab Retriever cross
Pene Leadbeater & Carly, Labrador Retriever

Waikato

Jacqui Fitzgerald & Scout, Golden Retriever

Wellington

Jenny Cheng & Juno, Malshi (Maltese / Shih Tzu cross)
Barbra Hodgson & Charlie, Cavachon
Paula Pope & Arty, Miniature Schnauzer
Ezmae Reid & Bonnie, Rottweiler

Whanganui

Maryjane Ryan & Sam (Cocker Spaniel) & Chole (Spaniel x heading dog)

Whitby to Johnsonville

Jo McCready & Cas, Labrador Retriever



Something Special

Alison and her lovely black Labrador Hannah are part of our Auckland team of members. 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.

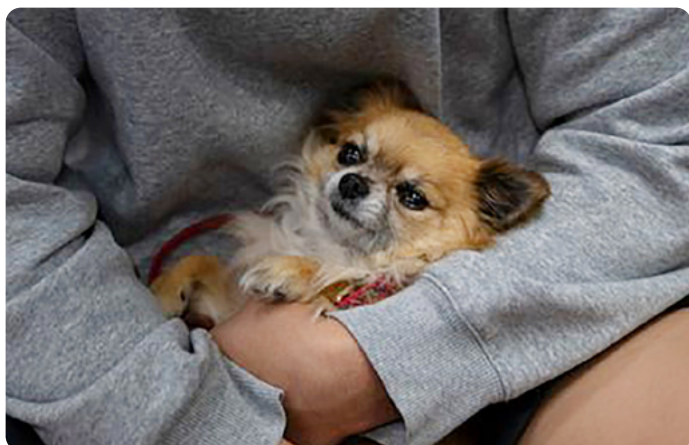
Yvette is an Occupational Therapist at the Inclusion Support Centre, she writes:

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.

Out & About

Our Manawatu members visit the IPU Tertiary Institute four times a year. Institute of the Pacific United is a Japanese and New Zealand tertiary educational institute based in Palmerston North. Another network of the institute is International Pacific University which was established in 2007 in Okayama, Japan. The visits take place in the library or in the beautiful gardens and followed by an invitation to stay for a lovely lunch. The joy and happiness our dogs bring to the students and staff is heart warming and rewarding.



Brock owned by Lynda Gulbransen, visiting Waikato Hospital



Floss owned by Jan Leigh visiting O'Connor Rest Home and Hospital in Westport.



Oi, owned by Debbie Woods visiting Radius Millstream in Ashburton.

Toi Ohomai Visit, Tauranga



Julie with Willow, Melody with Cookie & Catherine with Dudley.



Rufus owned by Gideon Wych ready for his visit to Craigweil House, Auckland.

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