Welcome to Autumn 2017.

We have some impressive stories and photos contributed by our members and their canine friends to this Newsletter. They detail all the wonderful outings, Christmas gatherings and the huge amount of Christmas spirit given to friends in the Rest Homes, Hospitals and the Community.

We wish to thank you for your time and heart and hope you enjoy reading these amazing stories.

What a great happy photo for our cover page and the Christmas spirit is definitely showing here!

In this photo taken on our Christmas visit to Ranfurly Residential Care Centre in Feilding are:

Bella, Henry, Oakie, Sophie, Cobby, Toby, Lillie, Zaria, Murphy, Brandy and Shadow

Our annual visit here was on Thursday 15 December

Cheers

Ann Evans

Finn goes to Ascot Care BUPA Home in Invercargill

Finn and I have been visiting the Ascot Care BUPA Home in Invercargill for years now. Finn is so well behaved when we visit the dementia unit he stays very calm and is happy with all the pats and attention he receives. He is 4 years old now and although he wasn’t too happy to have the antlers on and “is too late to be a jumper” on he put up with them!

Thank you
Margaret Baillie
Invercargill Canine Friends
President’s Report

LIZ BOWEN-CLEWLEY our Patron

It was with great sadness that we have learnt of the death of our Patron of Canine Friends, Liz Bowen-Clewley, who passed away on Saturday 4th March 2017.

Liz has been a member and Patron of our organisation since 2008 and her enthusiasm and dedication will be greatly missed.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to Greg and his family at this difficult time. We will always remember the empathy and care Liz and her lovely dogs Archie the Labrador and Polly the Labradoodle extended to all they came in contact with. Thank you Liz.

Liz was introduced to our club previously by Eileen Curry who has added her own personal thoughts.

Annette.

‘I have known Liz for the past 20 years within the “Dog World”. Liz was a constant support not only to our organisation but to me personally. She had a great love for all animals especially Labradors whose company she and Greg enjoyed for many years.

Liz enjoyed life to the full and all the new ventures which came her way, I will miss her friendship’

Eileen.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING now confirmed for the 10th JUNE, 2017.
Notice of Meeting will be sent out to all members late April.

Subscriptions—(new automated system)

Now that we have moved to our new membership management platform - we have automated the subscription renewal process. An email reminder will be sent 1 month before your subscription is due. Members without an email address will receive a posted reminder. You will also receive one more reminder on the day that the subscription is due.

Regards Leanne

All members must pay subs … and here’s why

Sometimes our members ask us why they should pay subs when they are giving their time to work as volunteers. The key message here is that we are a voluntary organisation and we need membership subs to be paid so we can keep operating.

What do our subs cover?

Remind your team members who are slow to renew their subs that their subs (and generous donations in many cases) provide:

- Scarves for our dogs and badges for us, our professional kit.
- Mailing of new members kits with scarves and badges.
- Production of communication and information material.
- Systems and material for everyone to share their experiences, like our website, newsletter, Facebook and member management system.
- Professional support like financial auditing, meeting charities commission requirements and other support services.
Bengi

Bengi was a beautiful big, friendly, happy Golden Labrador who became a therapy dog late in life. He took visiting the residents at Cashmere Heights (Aotea) in Johnsonville in his stride and could sit for ages with a smile on his face so long as he was receiving pats.

Sadly Bengi’s career as a therapy dog was to be short lived as Bengi suffered a paralysis of his larynx and he went to doggy heaven.

I know that Bengi was a huge part of Louise’s family and he will be greatly missed.

Thank you Louise for sharing Bengi with Canine Friends Pet Therapy and the residents at Cashmere Heights (Aotea).

Regards from Jean Barr on behalf of Louise

In Memorium

Secretary off to Taupo

Our long serving secretary Nina and her husband are moving from the corporate world of Wellington to a hospitality venture in Taupo. Nina will continue as our new member co-ordinator but obviously will not be able to do the secretarial role. We wish Nina all the best in her exciting new venture.

Photo Permissions forms

Many homes have asked if we can have permission slips that are designed for people to sign once to give us permission to use every photo we take of them, whenever, instead of signing a form every time. Our legal person has advised that this would work. You can liaise with people at the rest homes you visit to set up a list of residents keen to be included. We will send you a very simple form to use. Should make life easier! Once the form has been completed with the eligible names please send a copy to editor@caninefriends.org.nz for our records. Thank you.
Christmas—Our Dogs Visiting

Christmas Party - Summerset By the Lake, Taupo  Sunday 11 Dec.  Canine  Friends

I visit Summerset fortnightly with Piers and asked others from “Team Taupo” to join me. We all enjoyed a delightful afternoon and, of course, loved seeing the smiles on the Resident’s faces with the dogs.

Many thanks and Kind regards  Vicky Graham, Liaison Officer Canine Friends Taupo

Andrea with Puddin, Vicky with Piers, Gaynor with Gemma, and Amanda with Adam

Graeme with Piers  Jeannette & Margaret with Piers

Dickie with Puddin   Amanda and Adam with Phyl   Gaynor and Gemma chatting with Phyl

Radar visiting Tauranga Hospital

Andy is a paramedic with St John. He enrolled with CFPT just before Christmas and is one of our Tauranga Hospital visitors. Radar is really good with the patients who are prone to bed, because they can reach him with their hands. Last week while I was in the Stroke Ward with them, Andy and Radar came across a woman who had had a massive stroke and was unresponsive. Radar stood beside her bed and I took her hand and put it on his head. Before long her hand was moving and scratching his head. Then her eyes lit up and she tried to speak! We understood the word Chihuahua. When her Occupational Therapist came into the room she was astonished at the response. This was so exciting for all the staff as well as Andy and myself.

Lesley Grant the Volunteer Co-ordinator for Tauranga/Whakatane region worked hard to enable our dogs to visit the hospital. She does a tremendous amount of work in the hospital for the patients. We are very pleased to be involved in this program. Janet— Tauranga

Footnote from Ann Evans—Janet LO for Tauranga worked so hard to get the hospital visiting happening in Tauranga, a lot of people would have given up as such a lot of work getting all departments onside and she now has several CFPT dogs and owners in there. She has done a fantastic job.
Manawatu and Rural Group visit International Pacific College

On 18 November the Manawatu and Rural group paid a visit to International Pacific College in Palmerston North. This time they decided if we could do it as a Christmas theme for the students. When we arrived the library was set up with a Christmas backdrop and lots of props for the students to have photos with our dogs. We had 12 dogs present so the students had many choices for photos. Cheers Ann Evans

Willard Home in Palmerston North

Clyde had a wonderful Christmas visit with all his special friends at Willard Home in Palmerston North. He visits every Tuesday and runs for the door when Mum gets out his scarf and says "let's go to work". He especially likes all the cuddles he gets. He likes to visit Joan first as she has some toys that he likes to have a play with before he gets down to the serious business of cuddling up to residents and staff. Even visitors don't escape without a cuddle. Once he gets home he likes to have a nice long nap as he's now ten and gets tired quicker than he used to.

All his wonderful friends at Willard awarded him with a beautiful inscribed tag for Christmas which he wears with great pride. They didn't forget Mum either, she got a lovely inscribed mug to remind her of everyone. It even made her a bit tearful.

Regards from Chris Partridge
Christmas—Our Dogs Visiting

Edale Aged Care in Marton

On the brink of Christmas the Manawatu and Rural group visited Edale Aged Care in Marton. We took in 7 dogs for the most enjoyable visit especially in their Oak Tree Suite (dementia unit) which we visited after the Resthome lounge and rooms. This is an annual visit and is always received with great pleasure by the residents.

The photo shows Reno, Oakie, Sophie, Panda, Milly and Murphy in behind.

Cheers from Ann Evans

Virginia Lodge Resthome in Wanganui

These photos were taken on our Christmas visit to Virginia Lodge Resthome in Wanganui on 9 December. We always take Xmas photos of all the residents with the dogs and they then have a copy for Christmas. This was a morning visit and then in the afternoon after visiting Broadview Home and Hospital we returned for their Christmas party complete with Santa. It was very interesting on our return as we were treated like royalty and so many of the families came up to us to thank us for visiting and what a delight it was to meet these wonderful dogs in the flesh as we have heard so much about them. That was really lovely to hear so obviously it doesn’t stop when we leave. Ann

These photos and others all then go in to a calendar for the residents so they can have the dogs all through the year or they can give them to their family. This year we even had Marilyn and Ross, the owners, in the photos session and in fact it was Marilyn who organised the birthday/royal chair to be by the tree especially for the photo. It was brilliant and then it was followed in the afternoon by their Christmas party so we were told we made the day extra special for all. Ann
Christmas—Our Dogs Visiting

Hospice Christmas Party
Palmerston North

Lovely photo (right) from Pam Allen with Luca sharing her Christmas spirit with friends at the Hospice

Canine Friends Pet Therapy – Hospice West Auckland

My name is Rachel Butler and I am assessor and volunteer visitor for Canine Friends Pet Therapy, Auckland.

I was approached by Hospice West Auckland (HWA) wanting dog(s) who could sit quiet for a nice pat but could also work with the patients in a more active way. This visiting appointment is a little different to the usual rest home/hospital placements in that patients at HWA are of various ages and activity levels.

To this end, I decided to visit with my three Border Collies, Lucas (7y), Jasper (4y) and Quest (13y) (see picture).

In fine weather, we meet at a local park where patients get to throw my boys a ball. Needless to say, this is a win-win situation for all concerned. Mental stimulation and fun for the people, good obedience practice and exercise for the Collies with each dog having a turn at fetch, whilst the others lie down and wait, or sit and be held by someone who wants that responsibility (see picture).

When the weather is not so good, we meet at the Hospice West Auckland Living and Learning Centre. Because space is a bit limited, Quest, Lucas and Jasper take turns in coming inside but even in this close environment, a lot of enjoyment can be had. Mostly though, cuddles, licks and pats are the order of the day.

Overall, a really rewarding experience for everyone involved, both two-legged and four-legged. There is nothing like a dog to put smiles and laughter into a day.
What's in a name?

I recently consulted with my volunteers about whether they were happy with the name for our group of 45 volunteers who live from Pukerua Bay in the north to Johnsonville in the south. I had called us Kapi-Mana-Ohariu reflecting the names of the electorates.

Most people thought that the name was OK, however, pointed out that unless you lived in this beautiful area of NZ situated just north of Wellington then you probably would have no idea where those places were.

Each volunteer had the opportunity to make their suggestion for a name change and the name of everyone who responded was placed in a draw for a $10 Animates voucher. The lucky volunteer’s name drawn out was Amy Wilson and her King Charles Cavalier Milly got to spend the money.

We settled on Whitby to Johnsonville which reflects the location of the facilities we visit and is easily identified by other members of Canine Friends Pet Therapy around NZ. Whatever we call ourselves, we are part of a team that work together to bring pleasure to others and that just is spelt PAWSOME!

Jean Barr
Liaison Officer Whitby to Johnsonville

My first visit to
Harbourview West Home in Oamaru

Meg on her first official visit at Harbourview Rest Home in Oamaru.

Photo taken with my Mother.

Regards Susan Hughes
Our Dogs Visiting—St. John’s Hospital and Resthome in Epsom. Adorable Master Po visiting with his friend, Elizabeth.
Regards Anna Marie Boado Parrant

Jean Barr, Liaison Officer for the Whitby to Johnsonville area has sent in this beautiful little story. I think it should be shared with you all and I hope you agree.

Nearly two years ago Annette you contacted me about MASH who wanted CFPT to visit. MASH is a mental health facility in Ranui, Porirua and Madison and I have been visiting once a month since then.

Some of the residents didn’t like dogs when we first visited although we had a cast iron fan group, mainly fanned by Jill and Julie. At Christmas Julie gave to Madison a blanket that her mother had crocheted which I have put away safely. In January when we visited Julie mentioned that she was writing some poetry but did not know what to write about. I suggested she write about Madison.

Today we visited and we were presented with a framed collection of Julie’s poetry to Madison which included photographs of Madison. I will translate what Julie wrote:

“Madison is a dog that comes in for dog therapy.
She walks around to see people for her pats
She has a lovely pink leash and collar with the word ‘Madison’ on it.
She is a lovely dog.
She always looks nice with her red scarf to show that she works with people who cuddle her. She wags her tail to show that she is happy and people who used to be scared of dogs; since Madison those same people are not scared anymore.

She likes to lie on her back to be patted and rolls over. She can do ‘High five’ with her paws and can say her prayers”.

I would like to think that this is what CFPT is all about, bringing joy to others. Thank you for forwarding this facility to us.

Jean
Welcome to all new Members with their canine friends from 6 November 2016 to 20 March 2017.