



caninefriends
pet therapy
Dogs helping people



Proudly supported by Dogs New Zealand
supplied by Vicky Graham, President

Around the regions — Auckland

I am the Liaison Officer and Assessor for the Auckland region and I have been a member since 2011. I am assisted by Julie Warder (Group Events Organiser) and Kim Greubner (Placements Officer) without whose help I could not do what I am doing. We are also lucky to have Carol Drew in Auckland, our nationwide Volunteer Mentor.

The Auckland Region of Canine Friends Pet Therapy is rather large, from Pukekohe in the South to Wellsford up North. With such a huge area, we also have a massive regional membership. As at 11 May 2021, I am looking after 129 active members which is growing every month.

We have all breeds of dogs, from little Griffons to Newfoundlands and every mix and size in between but they all have one thing in common: they have the happy and gentle temperament to seek and accept loves and cuddles from people they have never met.

We are able to place our volunteer members and their awesome dogs at rest homes, hospices and general hospitals, usually near

where they live. In fact, we are constantly getting requests from these organisations for one of our volunteer/dog duos to come and visit their residents or patients on a regular basis. Demand often exceeds supply!

Sometimes we get special requests from a health professional to visit an individual who lives in their own home and may have physical or mental health disability. These are organised on a case-by-case basis and the volunteers who put their hands up for these special assignments are often going over and above what they do already for Canine Friends.

The last three years have seen our volunteers and their dogs placed at North Shore, Auckland and Middlemore General Hospitals with more requests coming in from other wards as the word gets around. These placements have a lot of hoops to jump through but once put in place, are hugely rewarding for everyone involved, whether staff, patients or volunteers).



Canine Friends Pet Therapy Xero visit.

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

We also have organised 'events' where several volunteers and dogs will meet up and visit universities or corporates for staff or student stress relief. It is wonderful to see that just by patting a friendly pooch, worries can be eased.

Being such a spread-out area, it is difficult for volunteers to meet up. However, once a year, we hold a 'Founders Day' for which an invitation is sent out. It is the best opportunity for Auckland members to share stories and experiences and generally have a good time with their dogs among like-minded people. This year, North Shore Dog Training Club has offered the use of their

clubhouse and grounds. Thank you, North Shore DTC: your support is greatly appreciated and I'm sure everyone is going to have a great time.

I would love to submit photos of all our awesome volunteers but it would require a book! However, I hope the pictures give you an idea of our wonderful volunteer base and the smiles they produce. 🐾

Rachel Butler

*Canine Friends Pet Therapy
Assessor/Liaison, Auckland*



Amanda with Monty.



Elizabeth with Master Po.



Susy and Soren.



Zoom at Auckland Hospital ICU.



Sid.



Cooper at West Auckland Hospice.



Daisy, left, and Lucas, right.

