



Welcome to all Members, Friends and New Members



Wanda Vivequin's beautiful Border Collie Biskit are regular visitors at the Children's Ward of Christchurch Hospital, in fact many of you will have seen the lovely video of their visits on Seven Sharp last year. We think this photo is rather special – Biskit sensed this young patient's anxiety during a procedure and remained quietly at her side to give her comfort.

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President's Report

We have certainly started 2024 with lots happening behind the scenes and some exciting things coming up.

A big thanks to all who returned our membership survey – it is so pleasing to see 90% of respondents gave a rating of very satisfied or satisfied. This means a lot to myself and your committee.

The new scarves with our sponsor's logo Nexgard Spectra were sent just prior to Christmas so please contact Paulette, our Applications Manager if you haven't received one.

Rachel Butler, our Vice President and Auckland Liaison Officer has done a lot of work introducing branded dog jackets for those who have completed two or more years of service. The next round of orders will open in June or July.

Last year we heard from several Liaison Officers that holding our Founder's Day events during May caused some difficulty due to unpredictable weather around this time, so we have encouraged them to go ahead and arrange these get togethers anytime from now. Please do support your Liaison Officer by attending, they are a great way to meet other members and their dogs and enjoy the social side of volunteering. I will always remember Eileen telling me she wanted the dogs to have fun too!

Best wishes and thank you for being part of Canine Friends.

Vicky Graham



Your 2024 Canine Friends Pet Therapy Committee

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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.

2024 Regional Member of the Year Nominees

Timothy Williams

Auckland

With so many volunteers in Auckland, it is not easy to decide as they are all very much appreciated for what they do for Canine Friends Pet Therapy. However, for this year, I have chosen Tim Williams and Opie, a lovely Retriever/Poodle X. Tim has been a member for over 10 years and Opie has been with Tim from the start. Tim visits two wards at Middlemore Hospital and has also assisted with orientation of our new volunteers that we have placed at Middlemore. He has attended group events taking on the role of Acting Liaison on the day. So, thank you Tim, for your supportive long term service for Canine Friends.



Julie Cowell

Rotorua

Julie has been involved with Canine Friends for many years in various roles including being an LO/Assessor. She is now a regular visitor to two rest homes going the extra mile visiting at significant milestones like birthdays. Julie has a wealth of knowledge on all things dogs and our organization and is always happy to share this with new members, taking them under her wing as they start their CF journeys. She regularly attends group visits when she can. She is a true ambassador for the ethos of CF and is always trying to recruit new members via her dog training or greyhound rescue work. She told me last week that the reward from seeing the residents' faces when she takes her dogs, George and Amber, to visit makes it all worthwhile. Thank you, Julie, for all the time you share with us.



Tim Richards

Wellington

Tim has been a stalwart for many years, regularly supporting Canine Friends events at Victoria University and also the first to put up his hands and paws for corporate events. Tim fits in especially well at corporate settings, they love having him and unfailingly ask if he will come back next time. I have especially appreciated Tim's support since I moved out of the district. Tim has willingly taken the leadership role at events when I could not be present. Tim would be the last to ask for any reward, but his steadfast reliability richly deserves to be recognised.



Elisabeth Cato

Taupo

Elisabeth has been a member since February 2019 visiting St. John's Wood and any other facility in need of a visit. She has attended all our local events and taken time to get some great photos of our teams. She recently covered for me as acting Liaison Officer at three group visits to two facilities during National Dog Day week and is always willing to lend a helping hand when required. Her lovely dog, Bracken is a much loved member of our team and I feel fortunate to have her and Elisabeth here in Taupo.



2024 Regional Member of the Year Nominees continued...

Helen MacDonald

Nelson-Tasman

Helen MacDonald and her beautiful Standard Poodle, Belle, have only been part of Canine Friends Pet Therapy since early this year, but have proved to be exceptionally eager to give their time. They attend support reading at Richmond Primary School, where Belle amazed me when she settled her usually bouncy self and quietly cuddled up to a young reader. They also walk regularly with a young man who lives in a "Positive Support Home".



Zelda MacKenzie

Christchurch North-East

Zelda has worked tirelessly with the staff, volunteer coordinators, and the 'powers that be' at the prisons here in Christchurch, working to get access for our members and their dogs to visit the prisons. She got knocked back and delayed, but she kept on going, and finally she made the breakthrough and got visiting approval for Christchurch Women's Prison. Zelda is visiting herself, organizes the roster, training, and orientation with new members until they get to know the system. She has taken it on board to be the liaison person for the prison staff and our members. None of this would have happened without Zelda. I would love her to be acknowledged for her commitment to Canine Friends Pet Therapy.



Wanda Vivequin

Christchurch South-West

Wanda has been very dedicated to our Canterbury group and initiated the visits to the Children's ward at Christchurch Hospital. She promoted Canine Friends through her appearance on Seven Sharp, which encouraged more members as well as a wider audience for the work we do. Thank you, Wanda.



Beverley Ball

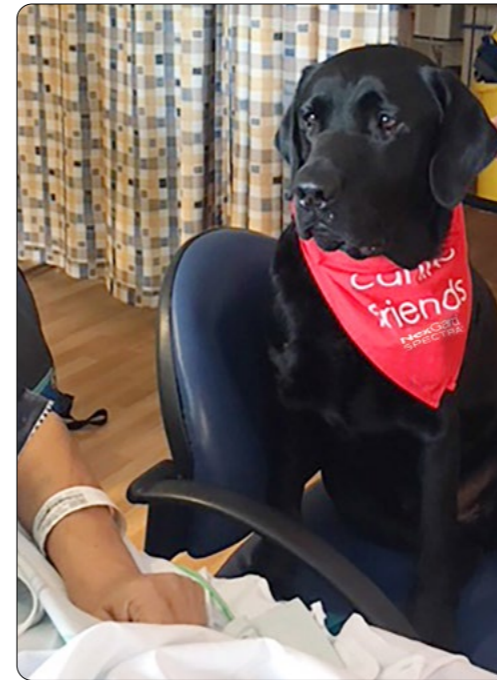
Manawatu

Beverley and her lovely dog, Lillie, visit their rest home every week, but they also do a monthly visit to quite a few wards and clinics at the Palmerston North Hospital. Beverley and Lillie are also regulars in our reading to children programmes at various suburban libraries. If you didn't think this exceptional team didn't do enough, they attend many University group events and community gatherings like Rural Day, Alzheimer's Memory Walk, NZ Rural games, plus our members get-togethers. We therefore think that this Canine Friends Pet Therapy team of Beverley and Lillie are very well-deserved recipients of our Regional Member Award 2023.



Canine Friends at Auckland Hospital

Zoom provides a welcome distraction



Meet Zoom! He's been part of the Auckland City Hospital CVICU team now for many years. His mum Lisa says: "We have had so many amazing experiences – one that stands out is when we were visiting regularly with a long term patient in the ICU (a young woman) who loved her weekly visits. During this time, we found out that she shared a birthday with Zoom and was in fact turning 21 ... we were able to visit on her birthday and she was then able to take Zoom for a walk (I think her first time up and out of bed!)

Another moment that sticks with me was a young mum whose husband had been given a very short time to live – she was devastated and desperately wanted a visit from Zoom – once in the room she broke down and just hugged Zoom on the floor for ten minutes. It was one of the most poignant, sad and emotional times of my life – but the comfort that Zoom was able to give her was something that will always stay with me.

Sometimes people just want to pat him and chat about their animals and be able to have some time where the focus isn't just on their medical situation. He provides a very welcome distraction.

Nga mihi nui Zoom and Lisa, we appreciate you.

Moxey brings joy to clients and staff

Eamon O'Donnell is a registered nurse working in community mental health for Te Toka Tumai.

Eamon's three year old Cavoodle Moxey visits our Department of Critical Care every two weeks.

"Moxey brings joy to both clients and staff on his rounds with me to DCC" says Eamon. "The staff tell me that he is great for morale and some of the nursing staff even request to be rostered on when they know Moxey will be visiting!

I have often seen clients in DCC brought to tears with emotion when they get to hold and touch Moxey. He is very chilled and will often just sit quietly and will happily receive affection from clients and their families.

They are very appreciative of his visits along with their families, and offer their gratitude for the therapy dog visits provided by volunteers from Canine Friends".



Photo Session at St. John's Wood in Taupo

Thank you to John McNaughton and Vanessa Hill for allowing us to photograph their residents and giving up their time to make this happen. There were dozens of smiles, laughs and fun moments – the residents were absolute stars and our members and their dogs did us proud.

Look forward to more of these photos in future newsletters.

New Members: March 2024

Ashburton

Carly McDowell & Maggie, French Bulldog

Auckland

Charmaine Auvae & Kaycee, American Cocker Spaniel
Stina Gibel Kornfeld & Tammy, Poodle Golden Retriever X
Danielle Lancaster & Wesley and Sam, Border Collies
Laura and Josh Rogan & Bailey, Border Collie X
Gaylene Ward & Cilla, Pug

Central Hawkes Bay

Lindsey Harris & Pipi, Golden Retriever X with Heading Dog

Christchurch

Damoiselle Banghal & Marshall, Golden Retriever
Hope Gillespie & Lewie, Dachshund
Rachel Macaulay & Archie, Golden Retriever
Dave Perry & Paddington, Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier
Jane Bailey & Darcy, Miniature Schnauzer
Liz Krause & Blu Labrador x Huntaway

Gisborne

Ella Williamson & Lulu, Toy Cavoodle

Napier

Heather Bell and Alec Olsen & Clem, Labrador
Tim Setchfield-Smith and LeighAnne Burnell & Chedah, Purebred - Rhodesian Ridgeback
Tim Stephens & Bentley, Cocker / Springer Spaniel X

Rotorua

Ashley Mountfort & Barry, Golden Retriever

Taranaki

Laura Evelyn & Louie, Retrodoodle
Nikayla Johnson & Lulu, Schnoodle

Taupo

Suzi Blank & Charli, Border Collie Cross w. Shitzu/Bichon/Maltese
Olly Burgin & Zeus, English Mastiff/Pointer

Tauranga

Ashleigh Dick, Phoebe, Golden Retriever

Wellington

Carol Bird (Placements Officer)

Whanganui

John Scott & Jock, West Highland Terrier

Whitby to Johnsonville

Rachel Binning & Charlie, Border Terrier
Emma Fromings & Tui, Spaniel/Golden Retriever X
Ryan Rodger & Brochan, Miniature Schnauzer

Four of our smaller members in Auckland, sporting their new jackets



Anne Marie de Jong's Nancy – Chihuahua – & Buddy – Japanese Spitz



Caroline Densem's Ebony – Miniature Schnauzer



Carol Drew's Venus – Poodle

Christmas cheer



Charlie & Benson, Rahiri Rest Home, Dannevirke



Benson and Willow, also at Rahiri

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Lisa Carrington
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Out & about



Finley owned by Margaret Scaife, our Nelson Liaison Officer bringing cheer during a home visit. Finley is one of our newer members and we wish him and Margaret many happy and rewarding years.



Willa owned by Helen Dutton in Hamilton during her second visit to Bupa St. Andrews. Helen tells us Willa has quickly worked out visits mean lots of fuss, cuddles and pats.



Here we have Tequila (Rottweiler), Hope (Golden Retriever) and June (Bearded Collie X) at Waikato University. These photos were sent by a student who said she was thrilled to spend time with these lovely dogs and the visit was such a great way to start the academic year.

We acknowledge and thank our Sponsors

