

President's Report AGM 2017

Hi everyone

We are now into our 27th year of Canine Friends Pet Therapy and structurally and financially I feel we are in an excellent position going forward.

One of our aims from last year's AGM was upgrade our Membership Management System and Communications technology which is progressing well under the competent guidance of Leanne Gibson. We are working towards upgrading our website as soon as possible (funds permitting). We also enjoyed a wonderful very full day last August when we ran a Liaison Officers Day in Wellington. We had a tremendous turnout and from all the feedback I have had they can't wait for the next one! It makes such a difference when you are able to discuss your problems, etc with other likeminded people and realise we all have the same problems. "It was a really fun day"

Carolyn Williams has been working steadily on updating all our communications material, and a complete new pack has been sent out to all Liaison Officers. To ensure all our communications material nationwide is consistent, we ask you all to familiarise yourselves with this pack, and to only use the official material you have received from now on.

We are also working on improving our communications and support in the South Island and helping our members to establish new groups wherever possible. Several of our committee members will be visiting current Liaison officers and members wherever possible later on this year and Sarah Cull is organising this venture with the generous assistance of the NZ Kennel Club.

I would also like to reiterate our previous Liaison Officer's reports on how important it is that we have a competent Field Officer for the South Island. It doesn't necessarily need to be a current Liaison Officer but could be someone who understands our principles and is willing to communicate regularly with our South Island Liaison Officers and send in monthly activity reports to the committee. We also require several new Liaison Officers for the North Island and we would be happy to hear from any interested dog loving people who are happy to commit some of their valuable time to our organisation.

The committee and I would like to thank all our Liaison Officers/Assessors and Field Officers as without their commitment and dedication our organisation would not exist. Many of you have worked tirelessly to include your members in all sorts of fun activities together. Our volunteers work extremely hard to cover numerous requests from different organisations that just need a gentle dog to visit, no questions asked. With the numerous articles being written by our very competent Publicity Officer the public awareness of our organisation has increased immensely which in turn involves more time and commitment from our dedicated members.

Some of you have hooked into our new Wild Apricot System and I do hope you will all eventually avail yourselves of this exciting new tool. I guess if I can get my head around it anybody can! There are also numerous forms and documents on the site for you to print one-off copies when you run out of supplies if necessary. A big thank-you to Leanne Gibson for getting us up and running on



Wild Apricot. Leanne has done a fantastic job and is always more than happy to offer any help and training you may need.

As most of you will be aware I am stepping down this year as President and am extremely confident the position will be ably filled by our new President. I want to acknowledge all of my committee who have assisted and supported me during my term as President especially Nina Hawke our outgoing Secretary who was always "just a phone call away" when needed. To Anne Abbott our outgoing Treasurer of 10 years, Barbara Laing who has resigned as a long serving committee member and Wairarapa Liaison Officer and Loryn Blaikie, who has resigned due to a more important commitment (all the best Loryn) - a very big thank you to you all for your commitment and service.

We have a very strong and competent committee and it has been a pleasure to work with you all. With the technology available today it is possible to extend the National Executive to include interested members from all over New Zealand with their own expertise and we are working to that end.

I wish the new President all the success in this position and am only a phone call away if you need a sounding board at any time.

Annette Dougherty