

Candidate Biography - Ann Evans AGM 2017

To those interested,

As I put my hand up for the role of Canine Friend Pet Therapy President I would like to think that my record stands for itself but for those who do not know me here goes.

At present I am a regular CFPT visitor (since 2008) to 4 rest homes, Liaison Officer and Assessor for Manawatu Rural (2011) including of late Levin, North Island Field Officer and Committee member (2014?). I am also Administrator for our Facebook page, initially instigated the inclusion in the NZ Kennel Club monthly Dogworld magazine, articles about Canine Friends which are now written monthly by Carolyn and I organised a twice yearly clothing order of shirts and vests with our logo on for members who wish to purchase.

I have had experience on and presiding over committees before we shifted to the North Island 26 years ago as my children were growing up including various sports, Guiding, School PTA etc. On shifting I thought I had had enough of committees but then Canine Friends came along and as it means so much to me and I am very passionate about the organisation it was very difficult to turn down and in some ways has snowballed.

When we shifted to the North Island we purchased a hill country property just outside of Ohingaiti where we now run Perendale and Romdale Stud sheep and cattle. With coming to the North Island my dream of owning a Golden Retriever dog came to fruition and we then followed this by a lovely female and thus did some breeding which included Lucy Boyes who was a forefront member in Lower Hutt for Canine Friends for many years followed by her sister Amber all under the tutelage of Elizabeth and how I originally found out about Canine Friends. Living Rural always seemed to put me at a disadvantage (so I thought) as I didn't have the city rest homes environment to visit but Eileen soon put me right on that and Sophie and I began our visiting firstly in Taihape and Hunterville and then spreading our wings further, sometimes travelling distances some people would be amazed at.

I became a member of the Feilding Dog Training Club with Sophie's Dad, Toby and found our niche in the Canine Good Citizen Programme with whom then my other Golden Retrievers Sophie, Oakie and Thumpa all followed on at and I became the first person in NZ to have gained the gold award with four dogs. I have since given my time back to the programme and am an instructor for the Club in this which I enjoy very much. I have also been involved in Breed Showing and was a member of the Manawatu Kennel Assn and Central Golden Retriever Club for many years. I now enjoy competing in the Obedience ring where I compete at a low level but gives me great enjoyment to meet others and watch other great dogs compete and I also meet dogs with owners suitable for pet therapy so they go away with new information about it.

I very much enjoy the personal contact although I do realise that technology is not to be dismissed and when in outside areas maybe at a show I will try to visit any Liaison Officer in that area just for a chat on how things are going. I find that communication is huge in this and all team members are really solo players doing a wonderful job but they do not know others who are also doing this so meeting up is also important and thus it was a huge success last year to hold our Liaison Officers Day of Appreciation and Training in Wellington for all our LO's. I was privileged to be part of the organising committee in this and organised all the flights in and out of Wellington and put together the goodie bags for all.



As a LO in my area I have organised regular visits to International Pacific College in Palmerston North sometimes with a spiel on CFPT, twice yearly visits to Massey University to destress the students on study week, rest home visits at Christmas time, promotion stalls plus dogs at Manawatu A&P Shows, Manawatu Garden Festival and Christmas Carnival plus have had a few walks in Xmas parades and of late have joined with the Palmerston North group on some of their get togethers. I have also given presentations to Students at Massey University, at the Southern North Island Diversional Therapists Conference and local groups interested in what we do and shortly have been asked to do so at a Lions Dinner. I have written articles published in the Wanganui Chronicle, Manawatu Lifestyles and Tararua Obedience newsletter in the last few months. I do try my utmost to promote Canine Friends wherever I go and any invitations I do my best to attend as my strong belief in the help we can give by visiting regularly with our dog is unbelievable and to some has to be seen to be believed.

My husband Paul and I are very much into dogs as he is a very successful dog trialist and is the present president of the Wanganui Centre and District Dog Trial Assn and organised the New Zealand Sheepdog Trials in 2014 at Moawhango as well as secretary of our local club. We both organise the Tux Yarding Event at Ohingaiti plus I run the kitchen there. He is also a councillor for the NZ Perendale Sheep Assn. As you can imagine I also have quite an involvement in these things as well.

Thank you for the opportunity
Ann Evans

Candidate Biography - Vicky Graham

AGM 2017

My involvement with Canine Friends Pet Therapy began in the early 1990's as a volunteer and committee member. With much pride I have witnessed the growth of our organisation from its small beginnings in Wellington to a recognised and respected nationwide charity. In 2015 I was privileged to be recognised as an honorary life member.

I am pleased to present my nomination for the position of President at the forthcoming AGM on 10th June.

I have owned dogs my entire life and been involved in showing, obedience and agility disciplines.

My husband and I left Wellington in November 1999 to buy a business in Tauranga. As we strived to build this seven-day business, unfortunately I could not commit to establishing CFPT in the area but continued my visits to a rest home in Te Puke with my Golden Retrievers.

In 2008 we moved to Taupo and after setting up a new business I established CFPT in 2009. There are five rest homes here which receive regular visits from our dedicated volunteers.

I am well versed in compliance, constitutions, regulations and processes of committees and charities. To summarise my other voluntary roles:

Central Golden Retriever Club:

1990 – 1991 Committee member and Newsletter Editor

1992 – 1995 Vice President

2005 – 2009 Newsletter Editor (outside the club's region but this worked well)

2012 - included on the Club's Roll of Honour

Riding For Development Taupo (affiliated with Riding for Disabled NZ):

2009 – 2012 Committee member and volunteer

SPCA Taupo

2012 – present: Committee member and part of the Fundraising and Support Group responsible for planning and organising events and arranging volunteers to carry these out. Since this group was formed I have played an integral role in raising almost \$120,000. I have also completed successful community award nominations and grant applications in support of SPCA Taupo.

2013 – present: Member of Taupo Dog Training Club and instructor since February.

My professional career spanned 25 years in the insurance industry, the last 10 years in senior management roles.

My career, being successfully self-employed for 17 years and my voluntary work has enabled me to develop and enjoy good relationships with those from all walks of life and in any capacity. I have



good communication and organisational skills and a strong commitment to causes I am passionate about. CFPT is one such cause and I wholeheartedly believe in visiting and helping those who can no longer enjoy the benefits of owning a dog – this to me is the very essence of our charity and continues Eileen's vision.

I appreciate there may be some reservation around CFPT having office holders outside the greater Wellington region. However, electronic technologies provide cost effective communication across the country with ease and I believe some middle ground between technology and traditional communication can be found to the benefit of our organisation.

As my business is home based and of a part time nature, I am easily contacted and able to dedicate the time and energy necessary to fulfil the role, one which I would relish and carry out to the very best of my ability.

Victoria (Vicky) Graham

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