

## North Island Field Officer Report AGM 2018

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This past year as the North Island Field Officer has been a busy and full one.

The challenge has been to contact as many of the Liaison Officers as possible and I've had many interesting chats on the phone.

I have been fortunate enough to meet with a few of our hardworking Liaison Officers.

I had a very interesting tour of the Tauranga Hospital and was fortunate enough to be there while one of our teams was visiting.

We were also approached by Palmerston North Hospital's Children's Ward and now have a number of dogs visiting on a weekly roster system.

We are still working with the Wairarapa Hospital in the hope of taking dogs there.

During the year we have had a few Liaison Officers leave and new ones start. Their enthusiasm is infectious and without their hard work we would not have the great organisation we have today.

The addition of assessors in some of the larger areas has taken pressure off for those Liaison Officers. And also of Events Organisers in some areas, as we are starting to see more requests for events.

As we still concentrate on our main core business of Rest homes, Hospices and Hospitals we are getting a lot more demand from Special Needs, Businesses, Schools etc.

I travelled to Masterton to assess and start two new members in November and to get Lisa started as the Wairarapa Liaison Officer.

At the end of last year Ann, Carol and I travelled to the Deep South for a whirlwind trip to meet the Liaison Officers and members down there. We had a very successful trip.

We are attending the Massey student pre exam week with Ann and I'm hopefully travelling North again in a couple of weeks to catch up with Liaison Officers and attend the Tauranga Expo.

Regards  
Chris Partridge

## **Auckland Liaison Officer Report AGM 2018**

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In a nutshell, Nicole, Kim and I have been extremely busy (understatement).

Our summary report is as follows:

- 101 paid and/or active members;
- 16 non-visiting members;
- 4 yet to assess;
- 10 yet to be placed;
- 15 Member chase-ups (overdue membership)
- Auckland Dog Registration - Still being chased up by Johanna Spaak. I asked if she still wanted to pursue. She said yes. I told Johanna about the success Vicky had in Taupo Council. She agreed, it is a Council-by-Council decision rather than Dog Control Act. I will keep asking for updates monthly.
- We have a number of Auckland University group visit requests. Nicole Wallace is working through them. Albany campus visit went very well and a donation is expected. We have another booked at AUT, Auckland. Many new applicants have also asked to go on the Group List. Nicole is going to keep a record of who actually turns up regularly. After a year or so of records, we can review membership to this Group.

Kind Regards

Rachel Butler, Kim Gruebner & Nicole Wallace

## **Hastings Liaison Officer Report AGM 2018**

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I handed over Palmerston North and left it in the capable hands of Daniela late last year.

We had a great Christmas get together, organised by Daniela. We had a shared lunch and Daniela had organised some agility exercises for our dogs which was great fun and we dressed our dogs up.

Since moving to the Hawkes Bay and splitting Napier/ Hastings in two to help Lyn (as it is a large area) I've been busy trying to promote Canine Friends in this area.



We now have a team working at Woburn Rest home in Waipukurau. We have two new members visiting in Havelock North and another in Cranford Hospice in Hastings. I am currently working on putting a dog into the Children's Ward in Hastings Hospital.

We had our first get together arranged (the Clive River Walk), along with Napier members, but unfortunately we had to postpone due to inclement weather. Looking forward to finally being able to do it and meet all my dog teams.

While Nikki was unwell I helped out in Dannevirke. I am working on Dannevirke Hospital, without a lot of success at this stage, but I shall keep trying. Also started a lovely couple at a rest home in Dannevirke.

I plan to continue working to build up the Hastings/Central Hawkes Bay Area in the next year.

Chris Partridge

## **Manawatu & Rural Liaison Officer Report AGM 2018**

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It has been another good year for our area with all rest homes having at least one dog visiting. We have 13 members, however due to owner or dog illness five are no longer visiting at this time but hope to return at some stage. One of our long standing visiting dogs Bella, who has visited our secure dementia resthome weekly for 7 years has just passed away. Also Zaria (who visited in Palmerston North) but still kept with our group for invites as she originally visited in Feilding has also gone to doggy heaven. This is always a sad time but we acknowledge their service to Canine Friends Pet Therapy.

We cover 8 rest homes in Feilding and one in Marton. One of our rest homes, Ranfurly Residential Care Centre in Feilding which is by far the largest, now has 3 dogs visiting.

I am very fortunate in that Ranfurly RCC lets me take new members into the rest home for training. Several of our new members take up the offer so that they get to know the residents there and are welcome to join me on as many visits as they like. The first visit is mainly without their dog but then with their dog and it works brilliantly. I still do the first visit with them (to their designated rest home) but they feel a lot more comfortable with this system and in my opinion are much happier and committed to keep visiting.

Up until recently I also looked after Levin and Foxton starting with four members but increasing to 16 members there. However, it became too hard for me to do a 3 hours return trip to assess and then return again for a first visit for members. All resthomes are being visited (some with two dogs) so it was time to hand over to Sue Clarke who, although a new member has proved to be more than capable as the new Liaison Officer.

We have regular invitations to events during the year so are very fortunate.

Halcombe School year 2-3 students invited me to bring along a small group to talk about how people help animals and how animals help people which they were studying in depth. Along went 2 greyhounds, 2 golden retrievers and a miniature schnauzer. The pupils all had their own researched questions as well, got hands on with the dogs and all thought they would love to do our work.



Freyberg High School in Palmerston North's Librarian invited our group to meet library students over their lunchhour in the library where we were greeted with gusto and totally surpassed any number they had predicted for our visit. It has led to Murphy becoming their literacy dog listening to stories on a regular basis in their library.

The International Pacific Unit in Palmerston North once again invited us to their library in November for Christmas and to celebrate Chinese New Year in February with their students. We have been visitors here for many years.

We attempted to hold a dogs'n'togs event at Makino Pool in Feilding but are now being looked at for the end of next swimming season as it was heavily booked with other events and they wanted to make it into a gala event.

We also accepted invitations from the students at Massey University to destress their students during Study Week which included the Palmerston North CFPT members. This happens regularly now in June and October and we are due to meet there on Wednesday 6 June.

The National Dog Obedience Association invited us to have a promotion stall at their Obedience Championships at Labour Weekend at Manfield, Feilding where we had a roster system over 4 days combining with Palmerston North members. It was very well received and Dogs NZ have since asked us to be part of their National Show in Porirua as we portrayed the dogs they love to promote and what it is all about.

As is normal, the Christmas build-up is very special to our group. We always spread good cheer to Ranfurly Residential Care Centre in Feilding and have done this for 5-6 years and so once again we all dressed up to visit. We had a new Christmas visit to Lonsdale Resthome in Foxton, followed in the afternoon with a visit to Ultimate Care Madison in Levin and with a stopover at a dog friendly café for lunch.

Christmas time also saw us at the Feilding Christmas Carnival where Palmerston North members also joined in the fun of meeting the public.

The Palmerston North Liaison Officer and members invited us and the Levin/Foxton members to join them in a mid-winter get together at Foxton Beach which included lunch at the Simply Balmy café which is very dog friendly and then ventured out for a walk along the beach.

We had also arranged a get together for a wider area membership including ourselves, Levin, Foxton, Wanganui, South Taranaki, Palmerston North and Southern Hawkes Bay to be held at Bulls but unfortunately we had to cancel due to storm warnings and very rough weather predictions. So we will aim to hold this event in the spring.

On June 17<sup>th</sup>, the Feilding Dog Training Club has invited us to join them at the Palmerston North Dogs Day Out celebrations so we have extended the invitation to our Palmerston members to join us.

Chris Partridge and I talked to the Kairanga Lions over one of their dinner meetings and they were very interested in what we do.

Manawatu and Rural although a small group are always willing to venture out and about. We do have some small visiting invites but any larger ones we are lucky enough to be able to invite our neighbours in Palmerston North and Levin/Foxton which works really well and gets more members to meet more members so a win win for all.

A great thanks to all members for their support over the year.

Ann Evans

Manawatu and Rural Liaison Officer

## **Northland Liaison Officer Report AGM 2018**

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It was a great relief when a Liaison Officer for the “Wild North” was appointed as I was feeling very guilty at neglecting some potential members. Thank you!!!

In between my “Wellington” life I have managed to assess and sign up a few new members. Several very enthusiastic people and their dogs.

It is so wonderful to see the impact these visits have on residents of retirement homes....And funnily enough I have noticed the bigger dogs get the most attention, they really are gentle giants!

Of course there are always people who don't keep up their visits for one reason or another but often good intentions can become too overwhelming.

I fully understand that and thank all the members in my region.

I also want to mention that we have introduced Canine Friends pet therapy teams into several rest homes that had previously not known anything about our organisation

Looking forward to more applications

Victoria Daniel

## **Taupo Liaison Officer Report AGM 2018**

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Here in Taupo we currently have eleven members visiting the town's five rest homes with each member making (at least) fortnightly visits. Mention must be made of two stalwarts in Sandy Pick and Lesley Cotterill who have been with us since the outset in 2009. These ladies visit at least two facilities each week.

Two members and myself who visit Summerset By The Lake were saddened to hear of a bereavement last month but privileged to be invited to a memorial service held in the communal lounge and conducted by a fellow resident who is a retired nun. Our dogs were part of the service and I was humbled to be asked to do a reading. It was most certainly a special occasion.

On a happier note, Taupo District Council has agreed to waive our member's dog registration fees. After an eight month process and attending two public forums to present my request, the good news arrived last week.

We have been asked to arrange a regular group visit to St. John's Wood, the first of which will be 30<sup>th</sup> June. If successful this will be on alternate months.

I feel fortunate to have the opportunity of meeting new applicants and witnessing the special bond they have with their canine friend. Equally, I enjoy being part of the dedicated group we have here.

Vicky Graham

## Tauranga Liaison Officers Report AGM 2018

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Tauranga Canine Friends has been through a major change at the beginning of this year with Janet stepping down from the Liaison Officer's role. Luckily six months prior to this Janet asked me to come on board to give her a hand, as Canine Friends Tauranga was growing very fast.

We now have 69 members in the Bay of Plenty area, and 8 members in placement at the hospital. Pet Therapy volunteers have increased at the Tauranga hospital, so we have asked Francesca Rae to come back on board to run the hospital CF volunteers alongside Lesley Grant (volunteer's manager at Tauranga Hospital).

We have three exciting things that have happened in just the last few months....

1. Leanne patiently took me through some well-needed training sessions on how to work the **Wild Apricot** Membership Management computer programme. Now I can navigate my way around the in depth database (much to my husband's relief), and have been updating information, creating contact lists and emails and being a lot more involved in knowing what's going on for our volunteers. This has created a deeper knowledge and a sense of ownership for myself as an LO. I highly recommend the Wild Apricot programme – 'If I can do it, anyone can do it!'
2. We have also entered into our local **Trust Power Community Awards**. This came about during one of our pet therapy volunteers doing their weekly visits at the hospital, and recommended that we should enter. So I did, but I have not heard anything back as yet. The winners will be announced at the Tauranga community awards function in June. So I'll keep you posted on what happens with that.
3. The last piece of exciting news is that **Canine Friends was in our local paper** (The Bay of Plenty Times). It was a story they were running about animals helping people in the community. A journalist contacted me, (whilst I was actually waiting in A&E at the hospital, because I had fallen off a ladder and received a large cut on my forehead and quite bad concussion, but that is a long story, which I will save for another time). By the time I got my brain up and running to be able to think properly, we had one day to have an interview over the phone and it was going to print the following day! Part of the article featured one of our volunteers who visits regularly at the hospital and included a photo of one of our therapy dogs with his scarf on.

### COMING UP:

We have a pet expo coming to Tauranga in June, I tried my best to get the organisation to donate us a space to have a stall at the expo, but sadly it would cost too much, even with a discount! So we will not be having a stall, but – I have permission to bring our own CF therapy dogs to the expo so they can wear their scarf, show off their amazing skills, and do us proud! Should be great advertising for us!

I am planning on having regular time for social events that we can bring our dogs along and to meet each other in person. The feedback I have been getting from our members has been very positive. So may look at doing a shared lunch or afternoon tea at least a few times a year.

There are some major changes going to happen to the assessment process of volunteering at the hospital, but that is in the very early stages of the up grading process, so will also keep you informed about this as it develops.

Thanks for listening,  
Merina Foster & Francesca Rae  
BOP Canine Friends Liaison Officers Tauranga

## **Waikato Acting Liaison Officer Report AGM 2018**

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Due to increased work and family commitments Judy McRae made the decision in May to step down from her role as Waikato Liaison Officer and assessor. Judy had fulfilled this position for several years, spending many hours both at home and on the road to ensure the large Waikato region was well served. We thank you Judy.

Due to the size of the Waikato region and the membership ( currently 75) the committee considered it beneficial to split this area into north and south and work towards separating the Liaison Officer and assessor roles.

To date I have arranged three assessors – Liz Scott and Pauline Rukuwai in the greater Hamilton/south area and Christine Nielsen in Paeroa/north. These three ladies are well known and respected in dog circles and have completed 5 assessments thus far. Thank you!

I am coordinating the placements using a “buddy” system until a new Liaison Officer is appointed.

Vicky Graham  
Taupo

## **Wellington Liaison Officer Report AGM 2018**

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My LO year started in September / October 2017 when I phoned the Wellington membership database to introduce myself and get some idea of where members were visiting.

Armed with the knowledge of which organisations we already had a relationship with, I was able to identify those who we might be able to become involved with. We are now represented at an additional 7 organisations.

Establishing new relationships with Rest Homes takes time so placements have been slower than they might have been. However, as long as members create good track records this can only improve.



We were invited to participate in two group activities earlier in the year; Wellington City Council invited Canine Friends Pet Therapy dogs and owners to a dog drawing event as part of the Chinese New Year 'Year of the Dog' celebrations, and Life Flight Trust asked us to attend their annual Open Day Fundraiser where we provided a quiet chill out space for the many young families in attendance. Our attendance at both events was well received.

The major breakthroughs for the Wellington area have been at the Mary Potter Hospice and Wellington Hospital. Thanks to a member having a contact on the inside we had a meeting at the Hospice and have a second dog visiting. Wellington Hospital is taking longer but we are on the right track. While we are still limited to two dogs at the hospital we are at least on good terms with the volunteer co-ordinator (Trish) which is in itself a marked improvement. We managed to meet with Trish and now understand the reluctance to engage with us dates from visits from less than well behaved SPCA dogs and puppies. We can only wait.

The last (and best) item to report is that Marjory Embleton is joining the Wellington LO team to help out with Assessments.

Thanks,  
Margaret Ranum