

## North Island Field Officer Report AGM 2019

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This year has been another full one.

I have spent many hours on the phone fielding enquiries from various sources and catching up with Liaison Officers and members.

I have attended a number of events with the Palmerston North and Manawatu groups. Various Massey University visits, and a wonderful Daffodil Day visit to Freyberg High School. Dogs Day Out in both November and April. Dogs in Togs in Feilding in April. Marton market day in November. And a day of group visits in Feilding for Christmas. A great get together at Foxton Beach.

I filled in as the Liaison Officer in Palmerston North while we found a new Liaison Officer.

The Palmerston North Hospital Children's Ward is receiving a visitor every Thursday. They have a team of wonderful Canine Friends who share the experience by visiting one Thursday every month each.

I have done a number of presentations to various organisations in Hawkes Bay. Also attended Pet Day at Porangahau School.

We did a successful Liaison Officer Day in Wellington in November which was great to catch up with those from all over NZ.

I have travelled to Masterton.

Hastings Hospital Children's Ward now has a monthly visiting dog.

In July Ann Evans and I travelled to Christchurch to help them out as they had a backlog of assessments and met some lovely new members and organised some new assessors going forward. We also travelled to Ashburton as part of this visit.

We have lost a few Liaison Officers and gained some new ones. A big thanks to those who have retired after giving so long of their time and expertise in this very integral job within our organisation. And again to those who have replaced them. You are all doing a fabulous job.

I am stepping down as the North Island Field Officer at this AGM. I have really enjoyed my time in the role and have met many wonderful, passionate people from all walks of life and made many new friends. I will be continuing as the Liaison Officer for Hastings/ CHB and doing my own visiting as usual.

I wish you all the very best for your continuing Canine Friends LO journey.

Kind Regards

Chris Partridge

## **Manawatu Liaison Officers Report AGM 2019**

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Once again it has been a busy and full year for this area.

Our membership is still growing as most of the rest homes in Palmerston North are filling up and all Feilding and Marton have at least one dog visiting with Woodlands having at least 2 and Ranfurly RCC with 4 dogs. We have several members who have several dogs that have all been assessed to fill their role in visiting so plenty of choice thus our membership although stands at 45, if we counted dogs that would nearly double. Our resthome tally at the moment being visited is 21, Hospital ward is 1, Ideal Services is 3, and Preschool is 1.

As per what happens, we lost four dogs who travelled over the rainbow bridge - Bella, Brandy, Bondi and Lucy. Bella was the first dog I ever assessed as a liaison officer.

A very proud moment was when a resident of Ranfurly Residential Care Centre in Feilding whom had had a canine friend team visit her every week for many years passed away and three of us who visited her attended her funeral service. The large front cover of her Service Sheet showed her with two of the dogs Shadow and Sophie whom visited her all that time which really put in perspective what we in sharing our dogs and the effect we have on their lives – a very humbling experience and the family and people attending the service all thanked us for making her life so much better for our visits.

We had one of our rest homes close in August in Feilding – Ruawai rest home which had opened in the 1980s which was sad.

We also have a support group of members unable to now continue their visiting so to keep them involved they are invited and most likely will attend, special invitation events when possible. Some it is they are not in good health, getting older both dog and member and not up to full visits. We like to still keep them involved and they are supporting Canine Friends by continuing their membership.

It has been a little disrupting in the Palmerston City Liaison Officer space as Daniela Rosenstreich resigned in November, Kelly-Anne stepped in and straight away attended the Liaison Officers Day if not a bit daunting for her but learnt a lot but due to personal reasons couldn't stay for long and now Kaye Harkness is looking after the City, busily visiting all rest homes and talking to members. As it seems to happen communication had not been kept up to date with the rest homes and with the members but will soon be. It was then decided that Manawatu & Rural and Palmerston North City could be one area as we can work very well together.

In June Chris Partridge, former LO and Field Officer still with her heart in Palmerston North arranged a visit to the Childrens Ward of Palmerston North Hospital and since then a dog team visits every week on a roster system plus featured in an article in the local paper with lovely photos.

We have a reading dog at Freyberg High initially to help struggling young readers in the High School area but now is attached to the special needs unit there and we also have a dog team at Russell Street Primary School in Palmerston North. It looks like we may also have another two schools also asking for this in Palmerston North.



We also have a dog helping with a special needs young lad at Russell Street School. We also have a member team visiting Linton Camp Ruahine Kindergarten.

We all enjoy getting out in the community in joining invitational events.

In June we attended a doggy day out in Railway reserve in the centre of Palmerston North

We had to cancel our doggy get together for a wider area including Levin and Wanganui in Bulls due to a severe storm and it was postponed till the spring but it never happened.

In October we participated in Rural Day in Manchester Square in Feilding

In November we were at Market Day Carnival in Marton and a group visited a Youth group in Palmerston North

Also in November we were present at Clifton Primary School in Bulls as guests for their Pet and Animal Day.

At Christmas we had a double group visit day in Feilding visiting Wimbledon Dementia Home in the morning, a shared lunch at Timona Park at the Feilding Dog Club and then a lovely afternoon at Nelson Street Resthome and the dogs were all dressed up for Christmas. We also as a group visited Edale Aged Care in Marton just on Christmas and invited some of the South Rangitikei Dog Club along for a demonstration of agility skills which proved a great success as we all sat outside and enjoyed it in the sunshine and then all went inside for afternoon tea with the residents

In February we all enjoyed a frolic along Foxton Beach having firstly indulging in an enjoyable lunch at Ocean Beach Eatery close by.

In April we attended the opening of the new Dog Park – Atimate Park- in Palmerston North organised by More FM and Cahills Animal Hospital where donations were given to us, followed the next day by Dogs in Togs at the Makino Pool in Feilding where we were the charity of choice.

In May we had a successful Founders Day at Feilding Dog Training Club despite the fact that a storm ripped the verandah to pieces a few days before but it was all cleaned up and ready for use. We had 21 dogs there for a shared lunch, games, Ziwi treats, presentation of appreciation certificates in which three of our members were awarded the big over ten years certificate, ate cake and told stories.

We also have visits to the Massey University students and UCOL students, all as part of their Study Week to help with their stress which we always follow up with us enjoying lunch at a local dog friendly café. These happen at least twice a year, with a visit to both having just happened in May.

We continue our visits to the international students at IPU which consists of an hour in the library meeting students, then lunch supplied by IPU outside over at the dining hall with our dogs for more students to pat and cuddle our dogs while we enjoy lunch (used to be one a term being 4 visits) but now twice a year. Visits are also made to Freyberg High Library in Palmerston North (three visits in the year one of just meeting the students but then involved us with daffodil day and then red nose day celebrations).



We are really looking forward to being “One for Manawatu” instead of dividing the city from the rural and it is working extremely well.

**Ann Evans and Kaye Harkness**

**Joint Liaison Officers**