

South Island Field Officer Report AGM 2019

After spending one month overseas, I returned to find it almost winter here with short days and long nights which is not so good for dog walking. There was lots of activity with Canine Friends Pet Therapy with applications increasing monthly. Also members were preparing for a new Founders Day event where members and their dogs are acknowledged for the marvellous work they do by receiving certificates of appreciation. Here in Canterbury two members have received certificates for 10 years of service, a great achievement.

In Christchurch we have said farewell to Annette Sheridan as she is moving to Arrowtown, to pursue other interests. I am currently acting as our local events co-ordinator as well as helping with assessing dogs in my area so life is busy at present.

Early in May Canine Friends members attended the Pet Expo in Speydon, helping with the Zivi promotional stand with Tania Lee and Mocha being a huge success with lots of the public.

Also a few Canine Friends members attended the Ferndale Fayre in Merivale where a local school invites IHC students to enjoy fun activities. It was lovely to see the teenagers giving up their time and energy to help others. Our dogs were exceptionally well behaved despite all the distractions of entertainment, loud music and farm animals being present.

Our Founders day was celebrated on 25th May and we had a cold and very foggy morning for our dog walking at the Groynes Dog Park. Around 7 members enjoyed the company of like-minded souls and all dogs had a great time running free and mixing well. Certificates and treats were given to those who attended and it was good to see all dogs enjoying the walk getting muddy and being active.

I also learnt from Hanneka Couperus that her dog, Wolfie has been asked to go into Rangiora New Life school to assist with a reading program. If successful this could be expanded to include more dogs in the future.

In Nelson Margaret Scaife reports that they had a successful Founders day in early May with good weather and lots of happy dogs. Margaret seems happy assessing new dogs and is looking for more placements.

In Oamaru, Cath Rivron is very busy organising a coffee morning on 3/6/2019 for Founders Day before she flies off on holiday. I also mentioned to her Judy Ashworth contacted me about a position of Liaison Officer in Timaru once she is settled in the South Island.

In Invercargill Sandra Knight will be speaking to Southern Institute of Technology health students on 29th May explaining how pet therapy can help with mental illness.

In Queenstown Beryle says lots of colds and flu have meant a re-scheduling of Founders day coffee morning for June.

Carol Millican