



caninefriends
pet therapy
Dogs helping people



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Around the regions — Whanganui

Supplied by Vicky Graham, President



I joined Canine Friends in Whanganui and have experienced some special moments while sharing my dogs. One particular visit was with my youngest Chihuahua Moonpie when a Diversional Therapist asked me to go straight to a room occupied by an elderly lady who was very unwell. We had been visiting this lady for several months. When her hand was placed on Moonpie's head, she immediately smiled, her family and I were very touched by that moment.

I have been very fortunate to have the help and support of Sandy McAllen, Whanganui's previous Liaison Officer.

My family and I moved to Whanganui in 2015 where we owned two businesses up until 2019. Due to health issues and environmental factors we decided to have a change of lifestyle.

Soon after, a friend told me about Canine Friends Pet Therapy in Rotorua which seemed it was meant to be since I have worked with animals throughout my life. I have trained as a dog trainer and became a qualified dog groomer through Auckland University, progressing to owning my own grooming business. I have also worked as a journalist for a pet magazine.

Dogs have been a huge part of my family and learning about Canine Friends made me think of adding another meaningful dimension to owning dogs.

Since taking up this role I have endeavoured to meet all our local members and to visit staff at the seven aged care facilities we serve.

I have promoted Canine Friends through local newspapers, met social workers and presented to Whanganui Rotary. This has increased our membership but unfortunately, due to COVID-19, our opportunities to visit have been limited. We currently have 17 members and have managed to meet socially from time to time and are looking forward to resuming our visiting.

I am very fortunate to have met the team here as we all share the same interest: the love of dogs. It makes my journey working with dogs even more meaningful. 🐾

Hannah Li

Liaison Officer, Whanganui

If you and your dog would like to join us, please visit: www.caninefriends.org.nz