

President's Report

AGM 2022

I am pleased to present my report at our third online AGM to provide an overview of events and initiatives for the last financial year.

This is our 32nd year of visiting rest homes, hospitals, hospices, correction centres, colleges, and universities with 664 members and 457 facilities on our database. Despite yet another challenging twelve months with limited opportunities to visit we remain positive in the knowledge our work is widely recognised and appreciated by many.

Being mindful of how Covid impacts our lives, our priority has been to see existing members return to their regular visiting programmes and to support them in doing so and have been mindful of maintaining regular communication with members to encourage a sense of belonging.

Strategic Highlights

Our alliance with the NZ Society of Diversional and Recreational Therapists has been most beneficial particularly regarding Covid and visiting restrictions and regulations.

I attended the annual conference in New Plymouth last August and enjoyed the opportunity to meet therapists, show our Power Point Presentation and run workshop sessions which provided an insight of our work.

Unfortunately, our visits to correction centres have been on hold but we know visiting will recommence whenever possible.

Earlier this year we were approached by NZCare Group, an arm of the Ministry of Health which provides residential homes in the community for those with physical and intellectual disabilities. We have also received requests from Dementia Day Care Centres.

Operating Highlights

Despite uncertain times several Liaison Officers held Founder's Day events during May to celebrate Eileen Curry.

Members who had reached one, three, five- and ten-years' service were provided with appreciation certificates. Thank you to our sponsor Ziwi for meeting the cost of these.

Partnerships

We have entered the fifth year of our partnership with NZ pet food company Ziwi which has provided support across several areas of our operations, details of which are in the Funding Report.



Sincere thanks to Zoe McClintock and the team at Ziwi. Your ongoing recognition of our work is much appreciated.

We are also very grateful to DogsNZ for supporting us to bring our Liaison Officers together each year for training, sharing ideas and showing our appreciation of their work. Due to Covid this event has been postponed from March to September.

DogsNZ also provides us with space in the monthly publication of the Dog World magazine. This gives us the opportunity to feature all aspects of who we are and what we do.

Sincere thanks to Steven Thompson and your team for supporting and appreciating the part we play in New Zealand's dog scene.

Acknowledgements

To our members, thank you for remaining a part of Canine Friends despite limited opportunities to visit. We will "get there" and it will be even more rewarding!

To our Liaison Officers, you are crucial to the functioning of Canine Friends.

A huge thank you to past and present and a warm welcome to those of you who have recently joined us. We look forward to seeing you in September.

To the committee, once again I feel privileged to have spent time with you, both at meetings and over telephone conversations. It is difficult to describe the reassuring feeling of knowing we share a passion which underpins this organisation.

Beverley Jocelyn, Vice President, and our Newsletter Editor – I have appreciated Beverley's ideas, thoughts, and her tireless work on our newsletter.

Leanne Gibson, Secretary who has again given a huge commitment to all this role entails and much much more.

Rachel Butler, our Auckland Liaison Officer handles a large membership and provides new Liaison Officers with very sound help and support.

Sandy Fea, a long serving member and more recently Co -Liaison Officer for Lower Hutt. Sandy also assists in collating and posting our newsletter and makes our supply of extra small scarves.

Helen Moriarty, a retired health professional has been a great source of advice on Covid issues and all things medical.

Carol Drew, our Volunteer Mentor is always willing to lend a listening ear and give helpful and knowledgeable advice.

Scott Mansfield manages our social media channels and provides thoughtful advice and support to ensure this important part of our operations runs smoothly.

We have three committee members standing down:



Dallas Hopkins- a member since 2013 and joined the committee as Treasurer in 2019. Thank you for providing our Financial and Performance Reports and passing on your extensive knowledge of financial management.

Rachel Davison – a member since 2012, Lower Hutt Liaison Officer since 2017 and joined the committee in 2020. Rachel often told me her favourite part of the LO role was accompanying new members on their visits. I have no doubt your enthusiasm for what we do has rubbed off on many.

Annette Dougherty – Annette became a member in 2005 and was quickly recruited by Eileen on to the committee and helped her with clerical work.

Annette has since done almost every job from Hutt Valley Liaison Officer to Newsletter Editor to Vice President to President and since 2019 has been our New Member Coordinator. We are indebted to you for your time, experience, and knowledge.

Finally, to everyone who is part of the Canine Friends family – never underestimate the difference you make and the lives you touch.

I ask that this report be accepted.

Vicky Graham

President