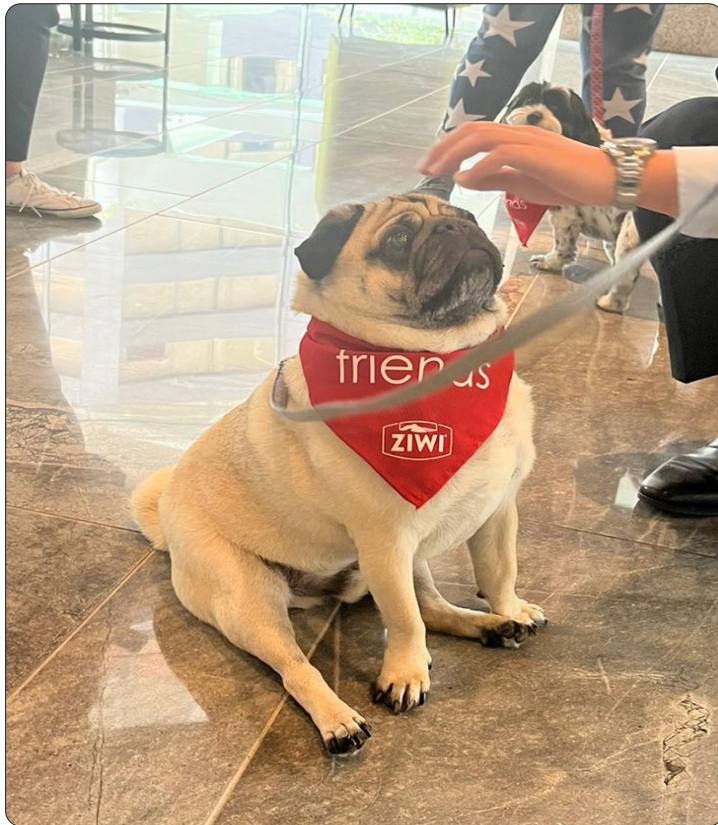




Welcome to all members, friends and supporters



Above: Charlie gets pats from office workers at ANZ Centre in Auckland.

Above: Kim-Michelle took Hazel to the Anzac parade and ceremonies in Hanmer Springs.

Right: Moose (left) and Cash sheltering from the rain after the Wellington Founder's Day celebration.



President’s Report

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

Having worked through yet another challenging 12 months due to Covid, our priority has been to facilitate members to resume their visiting. Thanks to our Liaison Officers and members working with facility staff, we have seen the majority of our teams sharing their dogs once again.

We are always mindful of the importance of communication and I am pleased to note our membership level has remained stable over the past two years.

Strategic Highlights

Our alliance with the NZ Society of Diversional and Recreational Therapists underpins our relationship with therapists in facilities. We are currently working with the Society by way of a nationwide survey to gauge how we can improve our services in their places of work.

We are currently arranging a visiting programme to commence at Christchurch Women’s Correction Centre and our teams have resumed at other Centres.

In August 2022, we were pleased to announce Mark Vette — renowned animal behaviourist, zoologist and trainer — as our patron.

Earlier this year, we were accredited by the Ministry of Justice to undertake Criminal Record Checks. This requirement of Te Whatu Ora regional and aged care facilities is becoming more apparent.

Operating Highlights

Many of our Liaison Officers held events during May last year to celebrate our Founder, Eileen Curry, made even more

significant following Eileen’s passing the previous month.

As part of member recognition, we ran a second photo competition and gave our members the opportunity to purchase branded clothing.

Partnerships

The 31st of March saw our five-year partnership with Ziwi Peak coming to a close. This support has enabled us to extend our reach into communities and enhance our work by providing support and appreciation to our members.

Last September, the Committee had a very successful day of training and discussion with our Liaison Officers and Assessors, made possible by our partnership with DogsNZ.

This partnership also gives us access to New Zealand’s “dog” community through monthly features in their Dog World magazine. This regular exposure over time has raised awareness of the value of pet therapy and has increased the number of applications from dog-savvy people who want to share their dogs with others.

Our sincere thanks to Steven Thompson, Director/Secretary, and his team for supporting and recognising our work.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to our members for the immeasurably valuable work you do to brighten the days of others. Never underestimate the difference you make.

~ Vicky Graham

If you would like to view the entire report, this can be seen on our website under News and Events > AGM Information > 2023 AGM.

Your 2023 Canine Friends Pet Therapy Committee

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Committee	Monique Maisey	021 512 711	monique.s.maisey@gmail.com
Committee	Kathleen Stringer	027 434 6438	kathleen.stringer@xtra.co.nz

- a. Remember to view and use the Canine Friends Pet Therapy website if you have a question or require information — www.caninefriends.org.nz
- b. Please view our Youtube channel to see more about our dogs — www.youtube.com/channel/UCdnZJ4LaiApt2bLpdssY2rA

Thank you so much for sending your photos! Please don’t be disappointed if they don’t appear in this newsletter; we receive a lot of wonderful pictures and do our best to publish a balanced selection from each region.

New Committee members

A very warm welcome to our two new committee members, Monique (Mo) Maisey and Kathleen Stringer. Included below are their biographies from the AGM.

Monique (Mo) Maisey

Kia ora — my name is Monique Maisey. I live in West Auckland with my two wee corgis Ernie (7) and Olive (1), their big brother cat Alfie, and my husband Will.

Ernie and I joined Canine Friends in late 2019 after reading a news article online about the organisation. We were placed in the lovely St Margaret’s Rest Home in Te Atatu Peninsula in March 2020. We finally got to meet our friends a bit later that year and ever since we’ve been visiting every second Wednesday and just adore our visits. Ernie takes his therapy job very seriously, he gets loved on and treated like a celebrity, and one of the residents even has a treat draw just for him. He sits and listens to their stories and smiles, getting all the pats, I just love seeing the joy that goes both ways between Ernie and his friends. We would spend all day there if we could.

I am interested in joining the Canine Friends committee to give more time to this fantastic organisation and cause. Here’s a bit more about me and what I can bring to the committee:

- My background is in marketing and communications, working with people, partners and member organisations and running events. I am currently a Marketing Manager at Tataki Auckland Unlimited, Auckland’s economic development agency.
- Volunteering is important to me, and I have volunteered and supported marketing charity events for 10x10 Auckland, a crowd-sourcing philanthropy event series, along with my time with Canine Friends.
- I would love to use my marketing- and people skills to help Canine Friends Pet Therapy continue to grow and prosper.
- Recently, I became the Canine Friends Co-ordinator for West Auckland members and enjoyed hosting the 2023 Founders Day.
- I think dogs are the best kind of ‘people’ out and have so much to give to our communities through Canine Friends.

Many thanks,

~ Monique Maisey (and Ernie)



Kathleen Stringer

Originally from Oamaru, I am now residing near Ashburton (just south of Christchurch).

I have been in Canine Friends for a year now and have taken on the role of Liaison Area Co-ordinator for the newly formed Mid-Canterbury area.

I am enjoying the opportunity of visiting rest homes with my two-year-old spoodle, Brigid. Being a dog person from way back, I know what an impact these bundles of joy can have on people physically and mentally. Brigid has got me through some difficult times, and it is an amazing experience being able to share the magic that she has with others.

I am a trained archivist and historian and am currently working on my PhD in history. I am a people person and enjoy helping those I meet in any way I can.

As an archivist I always received a great deal of pleasure going the extra mile to assist researchers get the special piece of information they were searching for. I like making people happy.

I have held a number of positions in various groups, including those that organised national events (Oamaru’s Steampunk and Victorian celebrations).

Currently, I am secretary of the Archives and Records Association of NZ. I am a team player and give my all to any group I belong to.

I would like to offer my enthusiasm and commitment to Canine Friends.

~ Kathleen Stringer

A selection of photos from Founder's Day events

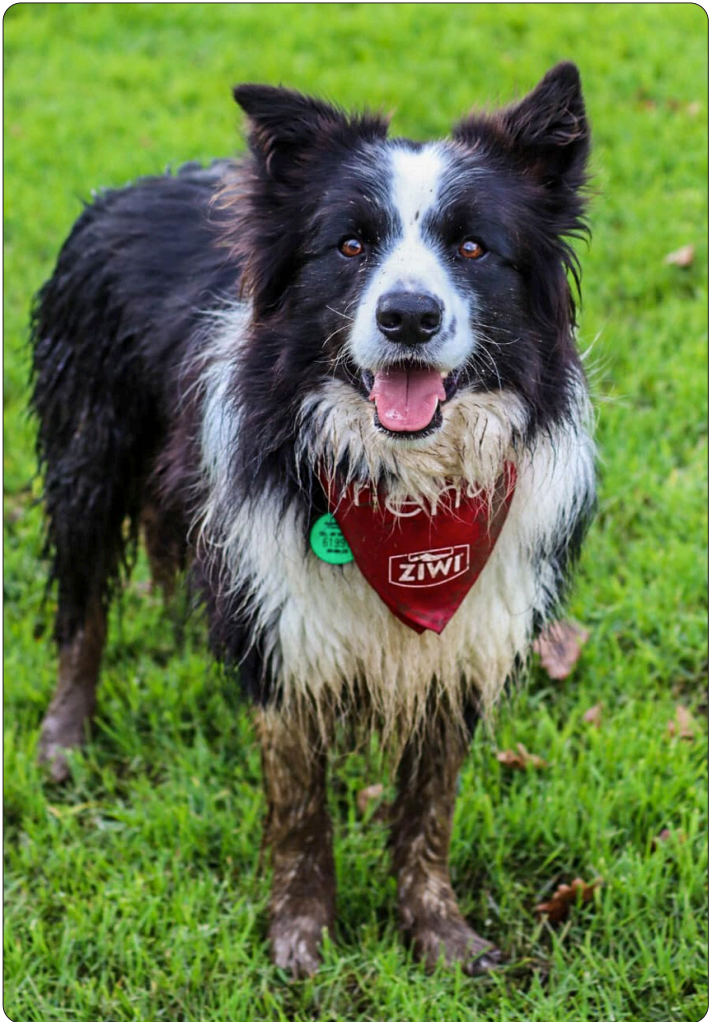


From top-left (pages 4 & 5):

- Getting treats at an Auckland event.
- A group photo from Rotorua.
- A group photo from the Waikato North catch up.
- A group photo from an Auckland event.
- Canine Friends Secretary, Leanne Gibson, presenting the daughter of Elizabeth Boyes, our oldest member, with her 2023 Honorary Member award.
- A group photo from Whanganui, including Committee member Hannah Li.
- A group photo from Tauranga.
- A group photo from Blenheim.
- Doggy treats from an Auckland event.

Inside page 4: Canine Friends Secretary, Leanne Gibson, with another of our 2023 award recipients, Fay McDonald.

Inside page 5: A very happy, muddy Jamie the Border Collie.



New Members: July 2023

Auckland

Diana Christensen & Hope (Labrador Retriever x Golden Retriever)
Asta Crawford & Rupert (Griffon/Shitzu)
Yvonne Fitzgibbon & Chloe (Border Collie)
Ricky Fleck & Rex (Maltese x Bichon x Fox Terrier)
Rebecca Holloway & PJ (Labradoodle)
Karen Huddleston & Diesel (Cattle Dog x)
Lora Pencheva & Gus (Goldador)
Tracey Phizackerley & Ted (aka Teddy Bear; Woodle)
Lisa Sandilands & Tia (Staffordshire Bull Terrier)
Gabby Stone & Miley (Cavoodle)
Danielle Swart & Zeus (Border Collie x Siberian Husky)
Angela Thorogood & Mabel (Tibetan Spaniel x Poodle)
Juleen Tjauw & Schatzl (German Wire/Short-Haired Pointer x Vizsla)
Abigail Tutbury & Ace (Border Collie)
Audrey Waara & Shuga (British Bulldog)
Kim de Jong & Rosie (Leonberger)

Blenheim

Deanna Moss & Dawson (Greyhound)
Katie Stadler & Talullah (Golden Retriever)
Anne Wilson & Beazley (Miniature Poodle x Maltese)
Joanne Worsley & Arku (Anatolian Karabash)

Central Hawke's Bay

Kit Holmes & Ambrose (Labrador)
Maureen James & Flo (Labrador)

Christchurch

Denise Russell & Stella (Huntaway x Heading Dog)
Pip Hawkes & Belka (Collie x Huntaway x Rottweiler)
Meg Macfarlane & Texas (aka Tex; Labrador)
Kathryn Mitchell & Shelby (Labrador)
Rachel Read & Albie (Cavoodle)
Morgan Tracy & Atlas (Border Collie)
Ross Beaumont & Nero (Labrador x Border Collie)
Kirsten Cruickshank & Jasper (Labrador)
Cerise Kelsey & Freya (Lhasa Apso x Chihuahua) and Franklin (Chihuahua x)
Sri Hall & Angus-Bear (Labrador)
Cathy Johnston & Rosie (Miniature Schnauzer)
Heather Seyb & Princess Buttercup (Standard Poodle)

Foxton/Levin

Jenny-Mary Allan & Fergus (Cairn Terrier)

Invercargill & Southland

Glenyse Pearse & Minx (Border Collie) and Scotty (Collie x)
Erik Oostendorp & Freddie (Whippet)

Kāpiti Coast

Stefany Knight & Lexi (Shetland Sheepdog)
Natalia Valdivielso & Kylo (Toy Poodle)

Lower Hutt

Cathy Agnew & Floyd (Shih Tzu x Maltese)
Meredith Patterson & Lulu (Golden Retriever)

Manawatu

Jan Clarke & Bob (Miniature Border Terrier x Miniature Schnauzer)
Tania Far & Daisy (Poodle Miniature x Bichon)
Marion Grimstrup & Spirit (Border Collie x Poodle)
Ruth Hodgetts & Waggs (Welsh Corgi)

Nelson/Tasman

Debbie Eden & Cruz (German Shepherd)
Megan Lowther & Gus (Doberman)
Joan Thompson & Libby (Cockerpoo)

Northland

Gail Fotheringham & Kohe (Catahoula Cattle Dog)
Hazel Hislop & Pepper (Labrador x Bearded Collie)

Oamaru

Gillian Anderson & Buster (Chihuahua)
Nikki Langford & Tig (Mastiff x)

Queenstown

Kerrie Hartnett-Ryan & Barney (Labrador)

Rotorua

Kimberlea Lemon & Archie (Papillon)
Emily McGowan & Burt (Labrador x)
Fran McPherson & Mista (Bichon x Shitzu)

Taranaki

Diane Haydon & Cruze (Border Collie)
Chris Taylor & Chance, Banksy and Mason (English Cocker Spaniels)

Taupo

Melissa Thomas & Molly (Golden Retriever)
Janet Wilkinson & Marley (Shepherd x Retriever)

Tauranga

Jasmine Black & Pipi (Fox Terrier x Pug)
Olivia Smith & Rio (Heading Dog)
Alessandra Verhoeven & Charlie (Golden Retriever)

Upper Hutt

John Cowden & Rua (Staffy x Border Collie) and Poppy (Kelpie x Lab)

Waikato

Clare Bayly & Bowie (Standard Poodle)
Dene Green and Kevin Smith & Hope (Golden Retriever)
Julie Elmer (Liaison Officer)

Wairarapa

Helen Boxall & Fergus (Labradoodle)
Helena Clark & Koda (Rottweiler)

Wellington

Lisa Emery & Tika, Carvoodle
Lincoln Hall & Frankie, Terrier Mix
Clare Pohlen & Gucci (Bearded Collie x Spoodle)
Cass Young & Leon (Shih Tzu)
Kim Riwai (Liaison Officer)

Whanganui

Claire Hargraves & D For Dog (Cavoodle)
Julie Lovell & Asha (Staffy x Husky)
Morgan Wadsworth & George (Poodle x)

Inclusive education at Hillcrest High

After a very successful visit to Hamilton’s Hillcrest High School in 2019, we were invited to return with our dogs in September 2022. This time we would meet a different group of children, parents and caregivers with the teachers.

There was a set format so that each child had an opportunity to feel at ease in the large auditorium. We were welcomed by a staff member as we sat in a semi-circle. She pointed out to us that drinking bowls were there for our dogs. We then introduced ourselves and our dogs in a light-hearted manner, describing their personality and any tricks or unique habits they have. Children and teachers were then invited to ask questions of us.

Some children were observers to begin with; others were very keen to touch or cuddle the dogs and meet as many as possible.

I found it very fulfilling to be able to learn about each child and with some it was only a matter of asking if they would like to meet Tui, the little dog I was working with that day, even if they were not too sure. With a caregiver or parent to encourage them, very soon a lovely smile would appear on a once-shy face and, as always, our dogs seemed to know just what was needed of them.

A big thank-you to our members, especially those who travelled from out of town to come to Hamilton and generously share time with their dogs and these children with special needs.

Bringing happiness to the children there and seeing the willingness of our lovely dogs and their owners made for a most worthwhile visit.

~ Christine Johnson

A photo taken at the visit can be seen on the bottom-right of page 7.

Out and about

Our members around the country sent in some wonderful pictures over the last few months.

Here is a selection.

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Below: Margaret and Belle did their first reading therapy visit to Richmond School.

Right-top: Charlie (Pug) and Nami (Shih Tzu-Lhasa Apso) getting pats at ANZ Centre on a corporate therapy visit.

Right-middle: Moose got some excellent foot pats on his first visit to Laura Fergusson Trust in Wellington.



Above (L-to-R): Caroleen and Nami, Lara and Charlie, Sharron and Teddy, and Catherine and Neville visiting ANZ Centre in Auckland for a corporate wellness visit.

You can read more about this in our June 2023 DogsNZ Dog World article (available at [this link](#) or on request by email to editor@caninefriends.org.nz).



Above: Tracey and Nearsa visiting with Rhys at Hillcrest High School (story on page 6).

Age is no barrier

Our members are always telling us how much they enjoy sharing their dogs with people in need at rest homes, hospices and hospitals. So we thought we'd take the opportunity to ask one of our youngest members and our most recent recipient of a 20-year Honorary Service award, to tell you why they love being members.

Lauren Harkness, Napier

My love of dogs and community service led me to volunteer for Canine Friends Pet Therapy. My mum Leanne found the website and she quickly became involved. She has been taking my Border Collie-X Sam to visit rest homes over the last two years and is the Liaison Officer for Napier.

During the school holidays I started going with Mum and enjoyed seeing Sam using both the Obedience and Agility training I do with him (I am a junior member of Dogs New Zealand) transferring to visiting residents. He is perfect for the job, just the right height to rest his head on their knee and he loves being patted for hours.

As well as seeing how well-behaved he was at the rest homes, it was cool to see the pleasure he brought to the residents. So many people talk lovingly about their beloved dogs that have either passed away or are being looked after by family. It makes people happy to remember their pets and to have some time with mine.

The residents I visit are also interested in the training and Agility competitions I do with Sam. They ask after the weekend how he went at competitions and are quick to praise Sam if he did well. Sam and I attend weekly Agility training at Napier Dog Training Club in Meeanee. Sam started puppy school there and we are still involved five years later.

I am one of the youngest members at the club, and everyone is super supportive and encouraging. We have so many experienced Agility members willing to share their knowledge; a lot of them are teachers which means they are good at explaining things. However, it can be stressful with so many 'chiefs' to pack the trailer when we travel away! We have a great group which travels to events, sharing the costs, and we all have a fun time.

For me, home isn't home without a dog so it's sad for many people having to give up their pets to go into a rest home. It is a privilege that I can share Sam with them and he is often asked to show off his tricks — residents are well impressed that he has recently learnt to wave goodbye. A couple of residents have passed away during our time with Canine Friends and Sam has been respectful and thanked at their funerals by the families who knew about his visits.

Our small Foxy-X Toby is now also a Canine Friend dog so we can share the visiting and residents get to enjoy either of the dogs. Sam is a natural and loves people more than dogs. The hardest part about the job is making sure the residents don't feed him too many treats (or their chocolates!) and he is also partial to nice polar fleece blankets so I need to watch he doesn't hop onto their beds before he is asked!

My service to Canine Friends Pet Therapy is also helping me complete my Gold Duke of Edinburgh award. As well as tramping, camping and sporting goals, my service to our school's enviro group and Canine Friends count towards the service section of Duke of Edinburgh awards. This section requires 52 hours of non-paid community service to be completed.

I feel very lucky to own a great dog like Sam and for me the



training is just as much fun as the competing. I enjoy seeing him learn and love how hard he tries to please me. He's a super dog and it's awesome that other people, often in vulnerable situations get the pleasure from his visits.

Elizabeth Boyes, Lower Hutt

I was overwhelmed recently to receive my Honorary Member certificate for 20 years of service to Canine Friends Pet Therapy.

I joined Canine Friends in 2003 when I read an article in the Hutt News as I was wrapping up my potato peelings! I contacted Eileen Curry, our founder, and began a very happy time with Canine Friends.

Memories include sitting at the table at Eileen's peeling and chopping onions, mountains of them. They were for the hot dogs we were selling as a fundraising exercise. It was a freezing morning and Eileen ended up in hospital! For seven years I picked Eileen up and we went to the Lower Hutt hospital and did our visits. I went to the children's ward and Eileen to Orthopaedics.

Committee meetings were held in Eileen's lounge, and we had outdoor activities including visits to the Remutaka Forest Park and walks at Kaitoke and Upper Hutt. Friends were made for life and the dogs had a great time.

Since moving to the Bob Scott Retirement Village, I have been assessed with my Golden Retriever, Tia, and we have done some visiting. Tia is loved by the residents and provides much needed therapy. When she passes through reception there is a traffic jam as people stop to pat her!

I have made many friends at Canine Friends and think it's a wonderful organisation.



We acknowledge and thank our sponsors and supporters

