



caninefriends
pet therapy
Dogs helping people



Proudly supported by Dogs New Zealand
supplied by Vicky Graham, President

Our corner of 'dogdom' in New Zealand



As we approach the end of another year it seems natural to reflect on 2020 as well.

Needless to say 2020 was interesting, challenging and different for us all and many people were hopeful 2021 was going to be the right side of normal. During 2020, we faced many situations in the face of COVID-19, some difficult and strange to us, but we also saw many acts of kindness and compassion.

When our volunteers returned to visiting aged care facilities, hospitals and hospices, the appreciation of Canine Friends was heart-warming and highlighted that sharing our dogs helped hundreds of people, young and old and from all walks of life.

Our 2021 calendar began with our Liaison Officers Appreciation Day on 6 March (postponed from 2020) when we brought our Liaison Officers together for a day of sharing ideas, introducing new initiatives and policies and most importantly meeting each other

in person. Unfortunately our Auckland team was unable to join us due to being in lockdown.

We were thrilled to have our Founder, Eileen Curry join us. Eileen never fails to amaze us with her spirit and determination. She has given a wonderful legacy in Canine Friends, not only to us but to the thousands of people who have been visited by our members and their dogs over the last 31 years. We are extremely grateful for the support of Dogs New Zealand in holding this event.

In May each year, we celebrate Eileen and our organisation by holding an event in each region. Our members get together for a dog walk, coffee or lunch — or all three.

In August this year, our visiting ceased once again and while

writing this I am hopeful we will see the way clear to resume very soon. We all know the benefits our visits provide to rest home residents and patients in hospitals and hospices but our members benefit too! I have read that people who have a sense of meaning and purpose are likely to live longer and joining a group of volunteers who share your values is a way of boosting a sense of meaning and purpose. Volunteers open minds, open hearts and create joy.

As members, we have common values and are united by our love of dogs and the desire to help people.

Finally a quote from the great late Helen Keller: "The unselfish effort to bring cheer to others will be the beginning of a happier life for ourselves".

We enjoy being part of the Dogs NZ family and wish you all a happy and safe Christmas and New Year. 🐾

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



Dog day Christmas Party at Remarkables Primary School, Queenstown
