



Spring 2016

## Wow!



What a wonderful atmosphere on Saturday at our Liaison Officers Training and Appreciation Day. The ambience at the venue Park Road Post Cafe in Miramar was delightful and the food was superb.

Our Liaison Officers travelled from Invercargill in the South to Whangarei in the North and all stops in between. It was a very full day for our members with lots of training, laughs and actually getting to know each other. This day was made possible by the substantial sponsorship we have received from the New Zealand Kennel Club which we acknowledge with sincere thanks.

I personally would like to acknowledge the tremendous effort contributed by the sub committee of Sarah, Ann, Loryn and Beverley. Thank you all very much from all of us on the committee. We really appreciate the hours spent organising today's event. We are also fortunate to have Leanne on our committee who has been very busy organising and setting up our new Membership Management software programme which was introduced on Saturday. We are working towards having this programme gradually initiated to all regions by the end of the year. A huge responsibility Leanne, thank you from us all.

Regards  
Annette  
Dougherty,  
President



Winning Dog



Group fun was had in making dogs!



Paula Moore, Guest Speaker

## FAREWELL JAX

Jax joined the Alcock family in late April 2006 (refer this classic picture below) and was an immediate hit with his half sister Tawnee whom had already started Canine Friends Pet Therapy work at the Home of Compassion, Silverstream Upper Hutt.

He was immediately inducted to the cause and started visiting with Tawnee on a regular basis and this became an inseparable team.

When the visiting dog at Summerset was unable to continue, the then Liaison officer Sondra Levitt introduced Tawnee & Jax to the residents. They were an immediate hit and have steadfastly (apart from when we have been on holiday) been attending each weekend for the past 10 years.

They have also always attended the funerals of residents when they pass and visited them should they have been at Hutt Hospital for any reason.

Readers will also be familiar with their appearance in our book and the recent Eukanuba Merit Service dog of the year 2015.



Jax and Tawnee have also been big supporters of the Special Children's Xmas Party, Lifelight Trust and Wellington Free Ambulance.

Jax was always a lover for a good swim (squeaking all the way to the beach) and would race into the sea at Petone Beach regardless the swell, not to mention his love of a tennis ball (consequential to being taught soccer by our future son in law as a pup).

Jax was only recently diagnosed with prostate cancer and this came as extreme shock to us, especially as both he and Tawnee had started some further work with Sue at Hutt Hospital in ICAFS (Infant, Child and Family Service) unit for mental issues. This had born great success and the clinicians enjoyed their presence, as have the young patients whom would open up more. Jax crossed the rainbow bridge at our home on the morning of Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> August and Tawnee is still somewhat lost without her sole mate.

We had no desire to remember Jax other than the action man that he was, a big cuddly bundle as he matured and always one to regularly check the status of residents in the Summerset day room.

We have many wonderful pictures and video's to remember him by.

**Paul & Sue Alcock - Lower Hutt**



Thank you  
for sharing -  
Jax was a  
beautiful  
friend with  
many years  
of service.

Editor



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### PET THERAPY GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG TIXI JIPO-MI

I arrived to live in New Zealand with my GSD, who was bred in Czech Republic, in December 2009. Up to then we lived in Singapore where we were both trained in Pet Therapy. The screening of the suitability of the dog and handler were based on the British methods which were extremely stringent.

We were very active members of the German Shepherd Dog Club of Singapore. As the club's Pet Therapy Representatives we visited a Centre for the intellectually handicapped on a monthly basis. We would be inside a locked security area amongst the patients. It was trying for any dog as one never knew what to expect. However, Tixi was a highly trained obedience competition dog confident and calm. She would accept having her tail or ears pulled, being hit and being led around and around or at other times just lying quietly flat out on the floor whilst a patient stroked her as she gave this handicapped person security, comfort and love

When we arrived in Queenstown we started off just on our own visiting the hospital and after many enquiries I learned about Canine Friends. We were asked to visit patients in the hospital itself. The hospital beds were high but Tixi would on a command stand at the side of the bed near to the patient. Then, instinctively, she would put her head on the bed cover near to the patient's hand and gently lick the hand completely of her own volition. The reward for us, in the case of a patient who could not speak or move, was the flickering of the patient's eyelids.

We now visit a home for the elderly in Queenstown. With the dog on the lead at all times we have done different exercises with the residents: asking a resident to throw Tixi's dumbbell (which is quite large!) and then Tixi would retrieve it, and return to sit in front of the resident who would then take it. This was both a form of mental stimulation for the patient and exercising patient's arm muscles. Or Tixi would be sat at some distance from the resident who would then call the dog to him, command the dog to sit and give a reward. This gave the resident a sense of responsibility. With some residents I would ask the person to hold Tixi's leash and 'look after Tixi for me' whilst I went and spoke to some one at the end of the room (always surreptitiously watching them); this again gave a sense of responsibility, of possessing a dog and of receiving love from the dog. Tixi would remain calmly on a 'down' for as long as she was told too.

A well bred and well trained German Shepherd Dog's innate instincts to please, to sense frailty in others and hence to protect and comfort make the breed extremely well suited for Pet Therapy.

Written by Amanda Richardson owner and trainer of Tixi Jipo-Mi who died last July aged 12 ½ years old. Amanda now has a 5 year old whippet who has become a gentle and endearing Pet Therapy dog who 'touch kisses' hands of the residents. Currently in training is her 7 month old Standard Poodle.

Thank you for sharing with us and thank you for your long service. Editor



## OUR SPECIAL PEOPLE

When I started volunteering with Canine Friends Pet Therapy, I thought I would be bringing a bit of joy and light to the people I visited at Woburn Home alternating with my dogs - Shadow, Sherry and Kula. And I could see that that was exactly what happened - people smiled whenever the dogs came in and we would have a natter about dogs, this and that, and sometimes nothing much at all - but the joy was there to see. Everyone I visit is special - they all have a mazing stories to tell either about their lives or their lives with animals.

What I didn't know until now is that sometimes you meet someone you connect with on another level. I was lucky enough to meet one such lady, Chris Davis, at Woburn Home. She was a caring and compassionate person and, even though she had major health issues, she was a joy to visit. I found myself leaving my visit to her room until last so that I would have all the time I could with her. She was always cheery, always interested in what I was doing with the dogs at the weekend, whether we had won any competitions, where we had been for walks, etc. We would natter about all sorts of things and she used to laugh at some of my silly stories.



Chris used to like to take photos of me and my dog on her phone when we were sitting in her room together. The dog would sometimes do something that would catch her eye - she would take the photo and then later on she would tell me she had been looking at the lovely photos and was obviously getting joy out of them. I never took any photos of Chris with any my dogs, but the one image in my mind that will stay with me forever was her sharing some of her crackers with my dogs, breaking them in half and feeding them to them bit by bit, and my dog looking up at her and gently taking the crackers, eating them and watching her, waiting for the next bit.

I often spent over an hour with Chris, and whenever I left her room it was me who had the big smile on my face. She truly cared about me and all my dogs and I could feel that caring.

Sadly Chris passed away in June. She was such a lovely lady and she made me realise the importance of what we do as Canine Friends' volunteers, not only for those we visit, but for ourselves too, as it is impossible to not come away from a visit without that wonderful feeling that we have touched some lives and also had some lives touch us too.

Shadow, Sherry and Kula still enjoy visiting the folks at Woburn Home, sneaking an occasional muffin from the day lounge, or cleaning up any crumbs on the floor of all the rooms they go into. They also enjoy being stroked and talked to by everyone.

**Best wishes and keep up the good work - Carole McNie**



Harry & Shadow



Shadow with Jim & Gordon



Kula with Ngaire

## NEWS FROM CATHERINE RIVRON, LIAISON OFFICER FROM OAMARU & HER TEAM WHO VISIT THE IONA HOME IN OAMARU

### The “Iona 3”

Here are some pictures of Oamaru's very own star Labrador trio – Sophie, Bronwyn and Dusty - during a visit to Iona Resthome. The home is a large one so the team works together to make sure all of their regulars are visited and get to spend some time with their canine friends while making sure that no one dog is over-worked. Oamaru has 6 rest homes, 4 of which now have regular canine friends visitors. All up our members are Willow the Greyhound, Mungo the Irish Wolfhound, Edie the Bearded and the 3 Labradors! A couple of years ago there were no members in Oamaru so we are proud to have such a good team now.



Dusty, the golden boy (and the youngest), is settling into his role well now that he is used to all of the different things at a rest home - learning to avoid wheelie chairs, walkers, laundry bins and the lunch trolley (although all 3 would be more than happy to help the lunch trolley with it's rounds....). He has a very waggy tail and brings lots of smiles. Dusty likes the quiet time (and fuss) while visiting as he has a new black Labrador puppy sister at home to keep everyone on their toes! Some peace and petting is just what he needs. Sophie, the chocolate girl, is a real pro. She likes to take a break in some of the rooms and sit while her friends talk about how lovely she is. One day she left a little unwanted parcel....much to the amusement of the lady who wrote in her diary that all was forgiven. It was a not so subtle reminder to make sure toileting calls are paid before social ones! The one faux pas aside, Sophie does very well with her visits and has many people who just love to stroke her soft ears. Bronwyn, the black Lab is a great one for putting her head on knees. She takes it all in her very ladylike stride. It is lovely to see the joy that these 3 bring to the residents. They are a source of pride to their owners – Judy, Liz and Anthea – so thank you for sharing them.



Evelyn & husband Norman

The pictures are the 3 visiting with Elizabeth and paying a social call to Evelyn and husband Norman. They all enjoy the dogs very much and were keen to have their pictures taken.



Elizabeth

### WILLOW VISITING NORTHANJER IN OAMARU

“Willow continues to visit his friends at Northanjer in Oamaru and they continue to enjoy seeing him. There is an added bonus as Willow now is accompanied by his new human baby brother! Busy times. Willow brightened up Jim's day this visit and it was interesting to hear stories of Jim's successful Sheepdog Trial dogs. There are lots of cups and photographs of these obviously special dogs.

The ladies are always pleased to see Willow and hear about his latest comings and goings. He knows just how to charm everyone and is always generous with his time. This week we had some singers to entertain us all - not sure what Willow thought as he chose to sleep under the chairs. We met a new friend who used to own German Shepherds. She was concerned that she was going to miss meeting Willow but was assured that he was visiting to see everyone and would not leave without doing so! She is looking forward to seeing him again soon.



Willow & Ella



Willow & Jim



Willow & Phyllis & Janice

Visiting with Willow always stimulates conversation, reminiscing and smiles and we can all do with a good dose of those things”.

Regards Cath

## Auckland University Campus Visits by Canine Friends Pet Therapy Volunteers

The Auckland Liaison, Rachel Butler, was contacted by Auckland Student Association requesting a number of Canine Friends volunteers to visit four campuses in Auckland during the month of June for student 'stress relief' during exam season. This had doubled from last year's request so word had obviously got around on how popular and beneficial these visits were.

From an Auckland membership pool of 49 (and climbing) the challenge was not so much getting numbers but whether they would be available over a 2-week period during student hours. In the end, we had 5 attending Albany, plus Rachel with her 3 Border Collies; 4 at Auckland City; 3 for Tamaki and 3 for Grafton, many of whom attended multiple campuses.

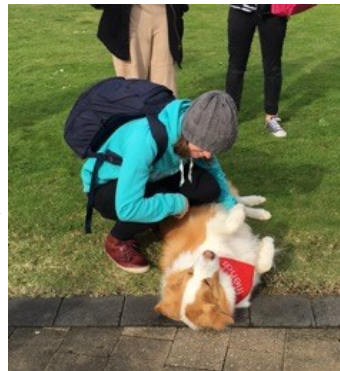
The volunteer dogs required a different set of good behavior compared to Rest Home visits in that it was held outside and the dogs could tolerate more energetic people, mass mobbing with pats and tummy rubs, active interaction with showing tricks and ball fetching and even having a TV3 camera following them around at close quarter (see <http://www.newshub.co.nz/nznews/stressed-students-unwind-with-dog-cuddles-2016060816#axzz4AzElq2w8>). The gold Border Collie, Max, shown in this link attended all 4 Universities, so an extra thanks for your help, Carole. Dogs also had to be reasonably comfortable around other dogs with exemplary handling by their owners shown at all times.

The time was enjoyed by all (two and four legged) with a good donation given by individual students and the Student Association. Rachel feels this is going to be bi-annual events so if you think you'd like to be involved, don't be shy to put your hand up for possibly October this year. A massive THANK YOU to all volunteers; you and your dogs are absolute stars!

**Thank you Rachel Butler**



Newton, Lucy & Max



Max



Macy

## OUR DOGS VISITING—NEW MEMBER — TUPUNA VILLA

My name is Jay and my dog is Dennis and I joined Canine Pet Therapy this year. Below is an email I wanted to share with you. I know from previous experience that pet therapy works, but this email reinforced it for me today.

"Jay,

The photo was taken by Warren Campbell Trotter, a nurse who works in the Avon Admin Building. There were a number of staff watching with interest and later commented to me how valuable the visits you and Dennis make are to Tupuna patients and staff. I will get a copy printed off to display on the ward if that is OK with you."

**Regards Karen Hawkins—Occupational Therapist, Tupuna Villa Hillmorton Hospital.**

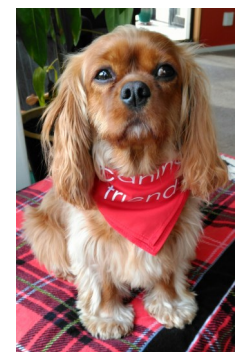


Dennis running on the grass after visiting

## NEW MEMBER—WHITBY RESTHOME

Milly is a 3 year old Cavalier King Charles Spaniel and visits Whitby Resthome. She loves snuggles and giving kisses. Milly can usually be found chewing tissues or basking in the sun.

Millie is the newest member in the Kapi/Mana Area and can be seen here proudly wearing her new Canine Scarf. **Regards Amy Wilson**



Adorable Millie

## Manawatu Canine Friends visit Massey University Students

Wednesday 8 June saw an invited and enthusiastic group of a dozen or so dogs and their owners from the Manawatu CFPT descend on the Massey Students Assn Lounge in Palmerston North. It is Study Week. Whoops and yells from the students as we appeared was amazing and rather daunting for those not been before.

It was a beautiful sunny day so we were able to be both in the lounge and outside on the courtyard which was great as hundreds of students come for their cuddle and pat. Inside it is hot and sticky and I think my dog drank a whole bucket of water as so many people and the effect of being continually patted and cuddled certainly drains our dogs but they have a drink and straight back for more as they absolutely love it all. The students come in glum with stressed faces but go out with smiles and a new vigour for facing their exams. Many tell us they did not know how they were going to get through the next few days of exams but now they will and it is thanks to us bringing in our lovely dogs. It is amazing as with a simple task of sharing our dogs we can achieve something very special.

On this visit a lady with tears in her eyes came up to me and asked could we visit her office and left, not actually giving us any details but our snoop Carolyn so impressed with what we were achieving used her investigative skills and she found out the lady in question was part of a group of exam markers. After our 2 hours with the students a small group of us went in search of her office at the Hokowhitu Campus to find these people (a bit of a challenge too) and knocked on the door with an unbelievable response. "I don't know how to express our gratitude to your lovely team (canine and human) for taking the time to visit our busy Massey exams team today. In particular we appreciate that you made the time despite no prior notice at the end of what have already been a very busy day for your team. You even managed to track down our separate office location based on nothing more than the briefest of chats. Your beautiful dogs were all so gentle, patient and lovely as were their various humans in tow! When they filed in to our room with their cute neckerchiefs and perfect manners they lit up our office and the light stayed on long after you'd gone. The timing couldn't have been more perfect; it's not only the students that feel the pressure leading up to exams?

Thanks again for making this a very special memorable day!  
Sonia Hutton and Massey Examinations team."

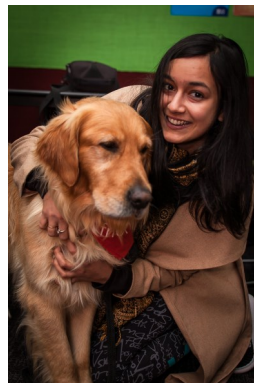
The photos were taken by Nicholas Kan who is a Massey Student who loves to photograph our dogs and is always in attendance. The students then gain a photo from him for themselves from their facebook page or he sends them one so they can have to remember us by.

Thanks also to Carolyn and her team of keen photographers for coming up and all my team for giving up their time to share their CFPT dogs with others.



Ann Evans Manawatu  
Liaison Officer

So many happy faces!  
Thank you Ann



Return Address: Canine Friends Pet Therapy, PO Box 45056, Waterloo, Lower Hutt, 5010

Please deliver to:



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Welcome to our New Members to August, 2016

#### NORTHLAND

Faye Moore, Greyhound, Poppy

#### AUCKLAND

Carole Sheng, Border Collie, Max

Carole Hogg, Smooth Haired Griffin, Teddy

Michelle Ballard, Border Collie, Poppy

Victoria Kelly, Chihuahua x fox terrier, Chop

Andrea Urquhart, Labrador, Bronte

Russelle Cowan, Chihuahua, Roscoe

Leanne Scott, English Cocker Spaniel, Milly

Graham & Petrina Reid, Leon burger, Floyd

Amanda Provan, Bichon Frise, Casey

Nicola Burton, Maltese, Georgia

Anne Marie Parrant Bichon Frise X Papillion,  
Master Po

Carol Drew, Poodle, Venus

Karen Machin, Golden Retriever, Josie

#### HAMILTON/WAIKATO

Pauline Rukuwai, Standard Poodle, Sky-

Doreen Parry, Labrador, Jemma

#### TAURANGA

Linda Blythe, Greyhound, Sookie

Anne Harold, Miniature Poodle, Willie

Jess Watson, Pug, Hudson

#### ROTORUA

Jenny Packham, Boxer, Amber

Darcy Faber, Great Dane, Sage

#### GISBORNE

Karin MacKill, Border Collie, Kaida

#### PALMERSTON NORTH

Genevieve Rogerson, German Short

Haired Pointer X Wire Haired Pointer X

Huntaway, Jasmine

Pauline Craigie, Tibetan Terrier, Panda

Alex Hill, Labrador, Naajz

Erin Gundesen, Miniature Poodle,

Nevaeh

#### KAPI MANA

Rachel Robinson, Labrador, Chief

Wai Famlton, German Shepherd, Quad

#### MANA/ PORIRUA

Amy Wilson, Cavalier King Charles

Spaniel, Milly

David Verrinder, Golden Retriever, Rafa

Natalie Taylor, Cavoodle, Zak

Lisa Richter, Labrador X English Pointer,

Rosie

#### LOWER HUTT

Lisa Chapman, Samoyed, Phoebe

Alex Fensome, Greyhound, Guinefort  
(Guinea)

Maurice & Virginia Gibbens, Golden  
cocker spaniel, Ma

#### WELLINGTON

Graham O'Hanlon Huntaway X, Rexie

David Hendry, Labrador, Max

Jackie Wilson, Labrador Retriever, Fyn

Lizzie Snow, Toy Poodle, George

Frances Rabone, Wire Haired Fox

Terrier, George

#### CHRISTCHURCH

Vicki Boyce, Labrador, Bourbon

Paul Haywood, Newfoundland, Millie

Lisa Barber, Labrador, Buddy

Gail O'Neill, Collie x Huntaway, Holly

#### INVERCARGILL

Christina Rock, Greyhound, Ollie

#### LEVIN

Linda Purvis, Pug, Bozely and Griffin,  
Maggie