



Wagging 'Tales'

Story Dogs Inc Newsletter #1

Term 1, 2011

Over 90 Children Helped by Dog Teams

“The dog was created specially for children. He is the god of frolic”
Henry Ward Beecher

PhD on Story Dogs

Serena, one of our volunteers is doing her PhD on the Story Dog program through Southern Cross University's Research Centre for Children and Young People. We will keep you posted about her progress.



Serena and 'Zola' volunteer at Cudgen Primary

In Term 3 2009, the Story Dogs program was trialed at Murwillumbah East Public School (MEPS) with two dog teams that helped eight targeted students.

Less than two years later there are now 18 dog teams helping over 90 children become lifelong readers.

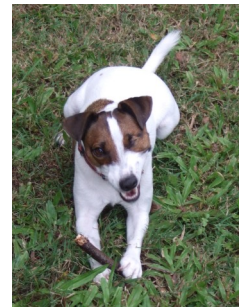
We are rapidly expanding and currently have dog teams in the following schools:-

- MEPS, 4 dog teams
- Uki, 1 dog team
- Brunswick, 1 dog team
- St Josephs Mur-bah, 1 dog team
- Tweed Valley Adventist College, 1 dog team
- Kingscliff, 2 dog teams

- Terranora, 2 dog teams
- Tweed Heads South, 1 dog team
- Centaur, 1 dog teams
- Cudgen, 1 dog team

There is a broad spectrum of students we help. Although most are chosen for their low literacy skills, some are chosen for other reasons such as to develop their self esteem and to enhance their communication skills.

We also help children with special needs, such as autism. Dogs are known to be able to help children with autism develop skills including empathy with others.



'Cookie' the Story Dog helps at Kingscliff Primary

Some teacher feedback from 2010

1. What were the highlights of the Story Dog program for you?
 The fact that children who no longer qualified for any government funding in terms of reading recovery or other programs got the opportunity for one-on-one reading practise.
 One family told me that their daughter now reads to the family dog at home. And loves it!
 One other little girl brought in a treat each week for her Story Dog.

9 New Volunteers - Ready to Start in Term 2

Each year we have three intakes of new volunteers, in March, June and September. We have recently completed volunteer training and **have 9 new dog teams** starting next term. We anticipate them going into the following new

schools, Condong, Crystal Creek, Burringbar, Bilambil, Banora Point, Fingal Head and Tumbulgum.

If you have any parents who would like to volunteer with their dog, we would love to hear from them



'Raffie' and Maria ready to start at Tumbulgum

Fun Night Out

Men Wot Sing—a crazy talented a cappella group, who have starred at Woodford, are doing a charity concert to raise money for Story Dogs. Guaranteed a great night of fantastic voices, crazy songs and much laughter!

Monday 2nd May, 7pm

St Peter's Anglican Church,
Cnr Lanham and Dutton Streets,
Coolangatta

\$10 & \$8

Follow Story Dogs on
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Dog Sponsors for 2011



THANKS!

Mrs Ann Paterson; who has kindly sponsored 'Honey'. Honey is her daughters dog and very much loved.

www.storydogs.org.au

Partnership with Griffith Uni

Story Dogs has teamed up with Griffith University, as part of the University Industrial Affiliates Program. This places 3rd year students into workplaces, giving them real life projects to work on. Tom Dignan, a local lad, is studying Multi Media and will be designing and producing a training video for Story Dogs. Currently Story Dogs uses an American video as part of their one day training session for new volunteers. Replacing this video with an Australian version, more relevant to the Story Dogs program will be a great benefit to the preparedness of new volunteers. Tom is a hard working, enthusiastic, talented student who is making great progress on the video. The video will be completed and ready for the next intake of volunteers in June 2011.



Sponsors Please!

Some of our dog teams are sponsored, however many others are not. It costs approx \$500/yr to put a dog team into a school. If you know of any business who would like positive media and advertising opportunities then; they could sponsor a dog!