Wagging 'Tales'

Best Community Project 2018

Bendigo Bank State Conference WA

Story Dogs won the community project of the year for Bendigo Banks WA! The Kwinana Community Bendigo Bank nominated Story Dogs as they sponsor a huge SEVEN Dog Teams. The wonderful team at Kwinana branch are here with three of the Dog Teams and their trophy.

Story Dogs is very lucky to be supported by five branches of Community Bendigo Banks around the country.

THANKS BENDIGO BANKS!
Story Dogs – Changing Lives

To all those involved in providing support to our Story Dogs volunteers, or who are personally involved in the program here is some feedback Story Dogs received from a parent of a boy who is part of the program.

“I wanted to write to you re the positive impact Daryl and ‘Fudge’ have had on my little boy!

My son is 8 years old and has been through quite a bit of bullying at a previous school. This has affected his self esteem at times and reading and speaking in front of others. My son also has ASD and reading can be challenging for him at times.

I can tell when ‘Fudge’ has been in, because my son is often happy and chatty about ‘Fudge’s’ visit. My son loves the interaction his class has with Daryl and ‘Fudge’ who are always patient and take time to stop for pats and chats.

When my son gets home he now also loves engaging in reading when coupled with stories about ‘Fudge’.

Such initiatives are invaluable to our community and I just had to take the time to write you and let you know our personal testimony.

Keep up the good work Daryl and Fudge and all the teams that give their time so generously to make a difference in others’ lives.”

Lions Multi District Convention Townsville QLD

Story Dogs was fortunate to be invited to the Lions MD Convention in Townsville in May. We had a great time, speaking to hundreds of Lions delegates. ‘Willson’ the Story Dog stole hearts and a few coins too!

Thanks LIONS!
Learning to Read the Story Dogs Way

The aim of Story Dogs is to make reading fun, so children seek out books, look forward to a story and become confident lifelong readers. We believe this quote from Mem Fox, a very successful children’s author and literacy consultant, is spot on!

‘The fire of literacy is created by the emotional sparks between a child, a book, and the person reading. It isn’t achieved by the book alone, nor by the child alone, nor by the adult who is reading aloud – it’s the relationship winding between all three, bringing them together in easy harmony’.

(Mem Fox)

Reading out loud to a child is a vital activity to help them on their road to learning to read. Many of the children that are chosen for the Story Dogs program have not been read to at home and have not had the wonderful experiences of sharing a book every night. Our volunteers are trained to read to the students if the students are not able to read, are too anxious to read aloud or are not confident. This become a joyous, fun time where the students can immerse themselves in the pictures, characters and journey of the book. The true magic of reading.

A recent ABC article also finds reading to your children is so important.

Parents pass on a love of reading to their children by sharing their own favourite childhood books

ABC SOUTHERN QLD BY SOPHIE VOLKER


Fiona Stager has owned bookshops her whole working life and said the benefits of reading to children are unparalleled.
"All the research keeps saying the best thing we can be doing for our children is reading to them," she said. "It's much more important than any advanced classes, more important than even what school they go to," Ms Stager said.

For more on this article click on the above link.

Morris Gleitzman the amazing Australian children's author has agreed to be a Friend of Story Dogs.
Pop in to his web site. He is currently the Australian Children’s Laureate for 2018 and 2019.
We are very honoured to have his endorsement.

https://www.morrisgleitzman.com/
Farewell

Farewell to Helen Justice who has been Coordinating the North West of Tasmania for the last 2 years and is now retiring from her involvement in Story Dogs. Helen has also been volunteering with her dogs for over 3.5 years with Story Dogs. Helen who stepped in to help Stephanie has been such a proactive, positive and wonderful coordinator for the Tasmanian volunteers. It has been a pleasure working with Helen. She can always be relied upon to be looking for ways to make Story Dogs better. Helen has been a wonderful ambassador for Story Dogs with radio interviews, presentations to Rotary and Lions Clubs and organising many local newspaper articles. Many dog sponsors are from Helen’s presentations. Helen is now moving on to focus on her health and wellbeing and to put other things at the centre of her life, like her passion for reflexology. Helen will be greatly missed.

A temporary farewell to Suzanne McCourt who brought the Story Dogs program to Victoria and was the founding Dog Team in Victoria and is now taking a 12 month break from Story Dogs. Suzanne has been with Story Dogs for over 5 years. Suzanne has been a powerhouse of action in recruiting volunteers, nurturing and supporting her volunteers. Putting Story Dogs out in the media and promoting it to the whole of Melbourne comes second nature to Suzanne. After a hesitant start to recruiting other coordinators Suzanne has now nurtured eight coordinators who manage over 70 volunteers. Suzanne is well known in Melbourne for her generosity of time, support and compassion for her team. A professional through and through Suzanne brought a touch of flair to the Story Dogs program in Melbourne. Suzanne is having a year off to spend quality time with her husband and bring her life into balance, giving more time to her other passion of writing.

We wish both amazing women the very best for the years ahead, the door to Story Dogs will always be open.

Advalth Shinde of Leeming Primary School in WA with ‘Seamus’ the Story Dog intently listening.
Thanks to The Melville Community Times who took this lovely photo.
Welcome to new Coordinators.

From left then clockwise:
Mary O’Donovan – Bassendean WA,
Anne Meagher – Lismore NSW,
Amanda Farrell – Cleveland QLD,
Jill Vizec – Ballina NSW, and
Kim Croft – Dog Sponsorship Development Officer, Victoria.

Thanks for joining the team!
Monash University researching the benefits of our pooches

Story Dogs is very excited to be partnering with Monash University on a research project into the use of therapy dogs for supporting children's well-being, with a focus on Story Dogs.

Dr Linda Henderson and Dr Christine Grove of Monash University have recruited three Master of Educational and Developmental Psychology students to undertake the research.

The Masters students, as part of their course will complete a 12,000 - 16,000 word research thesis, involving an independent empirical investigation to a high scientific standard. Dr Linda Henderson and Dr Christine Grove have provide the students with the overarching framework for the project whereby it will be one project and within that they will each have their own research strand. This means at the end of their work they will be able to draw together the findings and provide Story Dogs with a report on the findings. Story Dogs will be able to use it as 'evidence' of the impact of Story Dogs on children's well-being when reading with therapy dogs. Collection of data and the body of the work will be completed during 2019. The three students will be working with our volunteers, schools and Story Dogs students to collect the data they need.

Another very special connection with this project is that Dr Linda Henderson is a Story Dogs volunteer with her dog 'Daymon' at Rosebud Primary School.

Thank you to the dedication and passion of Dr Linda Henderson and Dr Christine Grove to make this project a reality.
Dog Sponsors for Over Five Years

Story Dogs greatly appreciates the support of these organisations who have sponsored one or more Dog Teams for over five years.

THANKS
WOOF WOOF!
New Dog Sponsors – THANKS!

Welcome and thanks to all of our new Dog Sponsors
Sponsorship is how we make it all work and can keep helping more children learn to read.

New sponsors since last newsletter up to the end of June 2018
New Dog Sponsors – THANKS!

New sponsors since last newsletter up to the end of June 2018

Dog Sponsors RENEWALS

A HUGE thank you to all those Dog Sponsors who have renewed. This keeps the wheels turning and ensures we can continue to expand and help even more children learn to read the FUN way.
Volunteer Positions Vacant

- Newsletter Editor
- Web site editor
- Alumni Coordinator
- Volunteer Coordinators for the following areas:
  - East Melbourne - VIC
  - Byron Hinterland - NSW
  - Gold Coast North - QLD
  - Byron North - NSW
  - Brisbane South - QLD
  - Devonport – TAS

For details of positions please contact Janine – email: janine@storydogs.org.au

Story Dogs Facts

- We help over 1,870 children each week.
- We have 372 current volunteer Dog Teams
- We have Dog Teams in 224 schools in NSW, QLD, VIC, TAS, WA, SA and ACT.
- We have 211 Dog Teams fully sponsored, this is only 57%.