

# WAGGING "TALES"



Fun Reading 🐾 Reading for Life

NEWSLETTER # 44 - TERM 1, 2026

VOLUNTEER ISSUE

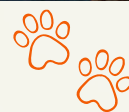
STORYDOGS.ORG.AU

## Back to School

Welcome back for another exciting school year. For those of you already in full swing, we hope you are having a great time reading with your new 2026 students. For those of you still waiting to return to school, we know this is a challenging time. Many schools across the nation have been unable to start their Story Dogs teams in Term 1.

There seems to be a variety of reasons for this, all very valid, but nonetheless we wish we could get you started sooner. Please be patient and reassure your dog that getting back to school is not too far away now.

**Paws crossed!**



## Thank you for all you do...

We just want to take a moment to thank you. Thank you for the time you give and the quiet ways you lift your students. Every contribution, large or small, visible or quietly offered, carries such amazing value. The routines and relationships you build are precious and as we grow our volunteer program, honouring what you already do remains one of our most important responsibilities. Everything we do is grounded in deep gratitude for each of you, because nothing we do would be possible without you and your beautiful dogs.



# What's Happening

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## What We're Learning



### Children attend school more

**Two thirds (62%)** of parents say that children show more interest in school.



### More Social

**85% of teachers** agree that Story Dogs contributes to improvements in children's social skills.



### Improved Skills

**84% of teachers** agree that Story Dogs contributes to improvements in children's literacy skills.

## Exciting Updates



### 1 One Wagging Tail

Story Dogs is proud to have a great new theme song and video for you and your schools to use as part of a fundraising activity... a great welcome to a room for any event or presentation even a great social post... both the song and also a video are available now... Enjoy!

<https://www.storydogs.org.au/school-resources>



### 2 Resources Page

We have a great new page on our site that makes finding School Resources so much easier. Let us know what you think.

<https://www.storydogs.org.au/school-resources>

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

May



National Volunteer week 18 - 24 May | National Storytime 27 May

June



Become a Sponsor + End of Financial Year (EOFY) Campaign

July



Seeking Coordinators | Join the Story Dogs Family

August

Book Week + Literacy Awareness



## National Simultaneous Storytime

National Simultaneous Storytime (NSS) is an annual event that celebrates the joy of reading and storytelling.

In 2026, the event features the book **Luna Roo: The Kangaroo Baller**.

The event will take place on **Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 12.00 pm AEST**

Many Story Dogs volunteers like to help their students gain confidence before this event by sourcing the book and practicing to read it a couple of weeks before the event. Being familiar with the book will enhance the positive experience of this event for students who struggle with reading.



## Your Legacy Their Future

### A Gift That Lasts a Lifetime (and beyond)

Story Dogs has partnered with Every Will by Gathered Here, Australia's most trusted free online will-writing service.

This partnership makes it easier than ever to leave a lasting legacy.

Including a bequest to Story Dogs in your will ensures that, even in the future, children will enjoy the magic of reading with a dog by their side.

To write your free will you can follow the link below.

[EveryWill • Everything End-of-Life | Wills, Funerals, Probate - https://wills.everywill.com.au/c/story-dogs](https://wills.everywill.com.au/c/story-dogs)

**Together, we can make sure every child gets their turn to shine.**

## ◆ Annual Report ◆

The Annual Report for 2025 is ready!

You can find it on the Story Dogs website in the Financial Reports section or you can access it here

<https://irp.cdn-website.com/5935d8b6/files/uploaded/Story+Dogs+Annual+Report+2025+final.pdf>



“My daughter was reluctant to sound the words out in case she got it wrong, but now she is willing to try and is getting it right! She has grown in confidence, and it is wonderful to see her enjoying her reading instead of dreading it.” - Parent



553

We currently have 553 active Story Dogs reading teams

392

We work with 392 schools across Australia

2765

2765 students read to a Story Dog every week

# Some Facts

We have a large number of schools waiting

39

We are actively recruiting for 39 new Coordinators to join Story Dogs to help us grow the program

74

We are looking for 74 new sponsors to help support existing dog teams

Love of reading is an important part of our theory of change and an aspect of every child's reading journey on which we aim to have an impact.

A love of reading means children enjoy books, feel excited about stories and see reading as fun. A love of reading opens up imagination, fosters curiosity and empathy and supports long-term learning.

Story Dogs helps children develop a love of reading by creating joyful, positive reading experiences.

Children have fun during sessions, and feel accepted, calm and safe to make mistakes.

These experiences help them build confidence and enjoy reading beyond the sessions.

A love of reading helps build literacy skills.

Research shows that children who enjoy reading and feel confident in their abilities tend to develop stronger reading comprehension as they move through primary school.



## Impact Report: Our impact Love of reading



# 96%

## OF PARENTS

say that their child talks about  
Story Dogs at home.



# 95%

## OF TEACHERS AGREE

that children have fun during the  
reading sessions





## Contact Us

Contact Janine and the Support  
Central Team on  
[admin@storydogs.org.au](mailto:admin@storydogs.org.au)



**LIKE FOLLOW SHARE!**

Stay in the loop and share the waggles!  
Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and  
LinkedIn for heartwarming stories, team  
shoutouts, and updates from across  
Australia.

Let's celebrate your impact together!