Are you and your dog interested in volunteering with us?

Bega Valley Shire Library is partnering with PAWS Pet Therapy to deliver Paws’n’Tales Literacy Program. The Paws ’n’ Tales program specifically trains volunteer/dog teams to work with children, with the aim of improving their literacy confidence, also to increase their love of books. This is achieved by teaming them with a fun and calming reading buddy in the form of a friendly dog. Together with their empathetic owner, dogs have proven to be excellent reading mentors.

Do you have a dog with polite manners and sound basic obedience? We are looking for loving, gentle dogs, which are comfortable in a variety of situations and with a wide selection of people.

What’s involved to become part of our team:

- PAWS Pet Therapy is located in Thirlmere, NSW.
- To become a PAWS volunteer, you need to complete the PAWS course at home in your own time.
- The 2 components of the training course are: the PAWS training manual, with associated questions; attendance (with your dog) at one practical training/assessment day. Paws Pet Therapy will be holding a specific training day in Ulladulla on Saturday the 28th of March from around 10am till 3pm. Details yet to be announced. You will be required to attend this day with your dog.
- Your dog will need a health assessment from your vet, must be up-to-date with a parasite control regime, and needs to be vaccinated for C7.
- We require a copy of the renewed Vaccination Certificate annually.
- Volunteers need to provide a current Police Check (for all visits) and have a Working With Children Check.
- Volunteers are required to uphold the high standards of PAWS Pet Therapy, and represent PAWS Pet Therapy in a positive manner.
- The cost of the PAWS Pet Therapy course is $225, which contributes to the cost of: training/assessment; uniforms for volunteer and dog; all equipment; insurances; ongoing training, support and social events; administration costs related to recruiting, supporting, training and managing volunteer teams. Bega Valley Shire Library will offer a subsidy to volunteers who complete the course.
- PAWS dogs must be freshly washed (within 24 hours), and beautifully presented for all visits.
- Ongoing support will be provided for you and dog, for however long you are with us.
- All rostering is done through the office. Volunteers are not required to roster visits, handle cash or carry out administration tasks.
• There is plenty of opportunity for volunteers to be involved in promotion and advancement of the PAWS service, should they wish. We welcome new ideas from our teams.
• Volunteer achievements are regularly acknowledged and celebrated on social media, printed and TV media, in our newsletter and via our annual “Zep Award for Volunteering Excellence”.
• All Paws ’n’ Tales programs are charged at $500.00 for a school year, contributing to the cost of supplying a professional service. (Paid by the Bega Valley Shire Library)

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN MOVING FORWARD WITH THE COURSE, AND ARE COMFORTABLE WITH ALL THE ABOVE, THE FIRST STEP IS TO COMPLETE THE ONLINE “NEW VOLUNTEER APPLICATION FORM”. This form is located at:

https://www.pawspettherapy.com/volunteer-inquiry

WE WILL BE IN TOUCH AS SOON AS WE ARE ABLE TO DISCUSS HOW YOU & YOUR 4-LEGGED FRIEND CAN BECOME PART OF OUR WONDERFUL TEAM, AND MAKE A HUGE DIFFERENCE THROUGH THE MAGIC OF PET THERAPY.

WE HOPE YOU DECIDE TO JOIN US!

PAWS PET THERAPY

10 Wren Place, Thirlmere NSW 2572