

Oscar loves a good tale

By Lisa Pahl

A little volunteer who loves a good tale is helping students at Kangarilla Primary School learn to read.

Reception to Year 2 students can always find a listening ear in Oscar the Reading Dog.

The canine companion joins owner and regular volunteer Virginia Besanko at the school and is having an impact on boosting the students' reading.

Principal Donna Lean said Oscar was a "vital part" of the reading program and that teachers had noticed a big improvement in students' eagerness to read.

"Oscar has played a big role in motivating students," she said.

"Between Oscar and Virginia our students' motivation and enthusiasm has definitely improved.

"We are extremely fortunate to have such caring and enthusiastic volunteers who take that extra bit of care with our students."

Students lead Oscar to the reading area and read to him and Ms Besanko.

They then get to lead the pooch back to class for his turn with the next pupil.



Lilah Cobby is ready to share a tale with Oscar the Reading Dog.

Oscar's contribution has been highlighted by the school as it prepares to mark National Volunteer Week from May 21-27.

It aims to raise the profile and acknowledge all of its volunteers who help out by listening to reading, teaching table tennis, mentoring students in the CreARTive program, helping at barbecues and organising fundraising events.