



NEPEAN THERAPY DOGS INC

In Western Sydney there is a small band of volunteers who are punching well above their weight when it comes to making a difference.

Nepean Therapy Dogs Inc started 20 years ago and has built up to become pivotal in ongoing Therapy Care for a range of clients, with dedicated volunteers taking their much loved dogs to hospitals, nursing homes, schools, universities and corporate businesses to provide a calming distraction to all they meet.

The biggest challenge Nepean Therapy Dogs face as an organisation is that demand for visits from Therapy Dogs far outweighs the number of volunteers they have.

President Nicole Celeban said: "There is no better way to spend quality time with your dog than being with them when they make someone's day brighter."

Of special interest to many is their PAWS Court program (Personally Assigned Witness Support). Unlike other organisations, the NTD works closely with the DPP, victims and witnesses to have a therapy dog be with witness in the courtroom whilst giving evidence. The success of the pilot program in 2016 has raised the bar to set a new standard in having dogs involved in courtrooms in Australia.

Whether people have a big dog, little dog, fluffy dog, skinny dog, odd dog or happy dog is of no consequence. Volunteers are always welcome with the main stipulation that to be a therapy dog your family pooch needs to be trained – well trained. The NTD has a strict assessment of all their dogs and owners but the rewards are priceless.

NTD Inc is a registered charity and always welcomes donations, sponsors, volunteers and naturally wonderful dogs are always welcome. ■

Visit our website: www.therapydogs.com.au

Facebook page: www.facebook.com

NepeanTherapyDogs

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Article written by Susan Hardy

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PHOTO CLOCKWISE FROM FRONT:

BARBARA WILLIAMS WITH POODLE X SCHNAUZER – MAX

BRUCE DOUGLAS WITH GREYHOUND BEN

ELLE MARFLEET WITH SHIH TZU MIA

IN THE PRAM – NICOLE CELEBAN'S CAVALIER KING CHARLES SPANIELS – RAVEN & CHANEL.