



MEDIA RELEASE

11 July 2006

Become best PALs® with kids and literacy

Do you have an hour a week to spare? Enrol now in a course to learn how to help kids read.

St John (NSW) in conjunction with the Department of Education, Science and Training will be running Early Literacy Course in Kempsey for parents, grandparents or family friends who want to better their child's literacy skills.

The course covers both the theoretical and practical aspects of the reading process as well as addressing values and attitudes and communication skills. It has been developed in consultation with the NSW Department of Education and Training, and supports the K-6 English Syllabus.

The four day course will be held at the Macleay Valley Community Centre, Kempsey.

The course is usually \$90, however, due to funding from the Department of Education, Science and Training, St John is offering this course at \$20 to participants.

People who complete the course receive a certificate, and are invited to join the St John (NSW) Program to Aid Literacy (PALs®), a volunteer program designed to help primary school students who have problems with reading and writing.

PALs operate in primary schools across NSW, linking volunteers with a child who needs that extra bit of help with learning. Volunteers spend an hour a week during school time assisting children one on one or in small groups.

"Many PALs volunteers have been participating in the program for a number of years and find it extremely rewarding to provide help to a child learning to read and write," said Alayna Sutcliffe, PALs Coordinator.

"The Early Literacy Course provides the skills for people who are interested in becoming a PALs volunteer, as well as encouraging mums, dads and grandparents to help out their own young ones," she said.

For further details or bookings contact St John on 02 9219 6842.

Course Details;

Location: Macleay Valley Community Centre, Kempsey

Dates: 2, 3, 9 & 10 August 9.30am – 2.30pm each day

Bookings: Telephone: 02 9219 6842 Fax: 9281 2186 Toll free: 1800 451 331

ENDS

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