

Come and join us at the
Compass Farm WORKING BEE
Saturday 21 May 2011

Greetings Compass families and friends,



Once again there's been plenty happening. While our Trainees were on Easter term break, staff were busy undertaking intensive professional development and training, prior to planning the coming quarter's program and activities. We all enjoyed the long 'long-weekend' of Easter-Anzac before hitting the ground running with our Annual Mother's Day Market within a day or so of being back for the new term.

Compass Mother's Day Market was a great success and everyone is to be congratulated on a fantastic job. Thank you to those of you who were able to make it along on the day—as well as those who supported us from afar. We had a terrific response from members of the public and plenty of feedback about how enjoyable it was. There were lots of new product and displays and many happy customers...



I have to say, however, that the atmosphere and 'vibe' would not have been the same without our fantastic musicians (details below) and the talented (and wacky) "CJ The Impossible" magician extraordinaire!! A special thank you to the Caloundra Sharks Jnr Rugby League for the wonderful venue...



www.cjbest.com.au

Til next time, Regards, Jan

Thank you to our ANZ volunteers Bryan & Adam

We are very privileged to have the amazing talents of these professional entertainers at our Market Day: C.J. Best; Robyn Brown and Pete from SophistiCAT; and Lara-Jane with guitarist Dwight Stewart. We can't thank you enough for your generosity.



www.sophisticatjazz.com



www.lara-janethompson.com



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Date Claimers

Saturday 21 May 2011
Compass Farm Working Bee No 2

Sunday 5 June 2011
World Environment Day

Monday 6 June 2011
"Green" Power Week

Monday 13 June 2011
Queens Birthday Public Holiday

Tuesday 21 June 2011
CET Tues-Fri group Break up

Thursday 23 June 2011
CET Break up



Fun on the farm



A day on the farm can be long and hard! We battle nature's elements with the heat and rain but that doesn't deter our farm trainees who have been adjusting to farm life with enthusiasm and pride. Like the trainees, our farm crops are flourishing too. The trainee's have harvested pumpkins, rosellas, zucchini, cucumber, lettuce, snake beans, squash, capsicum and chillies so far. We also have 10 new hard-working members on the team in the form of chooks donated by Karen Lloyd of Kazko Kreation's (a market day partner). Trainees have happily taken to feeding and petting the chooks and collecting eggs. The farm ute certainly gets a work out carting goods and trainee's all over the farm. But like all good workers, it sometimes need a helping hand !!

...this is when our 4wdriving enthusiasts have some fun.

Just past the chook yard, the slippery slope got too much one day and the Mazda slipped into the ditch. Luckily for the farm team, the admin assistant thrives on 4wdriving and travelling off the beaten track. Corinne always drives with recovery gear packed and ready for these situations. After attaching the MAZDA to a snatch strap we hooked it up to the PATROL and pulled it up out of the ditch. But the fun was not over yet as the Mazda's tyres were too muddy to handle the grass and it had to be towed all the way back up the hill to the gravel road. Good on ya Jeff and Corinne :-)



Continuous Improvement Plan
 We at Compass are committed to ongoing service improvement. If you have a suggestion about how we can improve our service, please write your suggestion on one of our **Service Improvement Suggestion Forms** which are available from the office, any of our centres or on our website: www.compassinc.org.au and we will carefully consider every idea.

Advocacy
 Remember that you are able to bring along an advocate or support person to any meeting that you have with Compass. An advocate is someone who is there to support you or represent you and your interests in circumstances where you feel that this additional support is required. Please ask us if you need more information or assistance with organising for an advocate.

COMPASS CALENDAR
 Need to check dates for the holidays or a special event?
 Our Annual Planner Calendar is available 24/7 at www.compassinc.org.au



New Postal Address for Compass:
 PO Box 585
 Palmwoods, Qld, 4555



Compass Farm Harvest Festival



For the final day of term, Farm Team held a special celebration to mark all we achieved at the farm over Spring and Summer— our **Inaugural Harvest Festival**. Everyone brought a fresh fruit or veg for the Harvest table (donated to local soup kitchen at day's end) as well as a sweet or savoury dish to share for lunch. We toured the farm viewing all we'd achieved, each choosing something we found to lay on the harvest

We also harvested pumpkins and made soup for lunch. After morning tea, while the soup was cooking we broke into groups and using beautiful hand-painted designs we created Mandala from seeds and grains.

As you can see it was a wonderful day and a great way to celebrate!

Loosely translated **Mandala** means 'circle' and is far more than a simple shape. It represents wholeness, a model for the organizational structure of life itself—a cosmic diagram that reminds us of our relation to the infinite, the world that extends both beyond and within our bodies and minds





SEMESTER I STAFF TRAINING BLOCK

**Working bee
at the Farm**

21 May 2011

from 8.30 am til 1pm.

Bring your shovels, rakes and gardening gear along with your DIY skills. We need a few teams of helpers for these jobs:

- Removing Bougainvillea vines;
- Running an irrigation system to the Nursery;
- Erecting shelving in Nursery.

Come along and join us—and don't miss a great morning tea

Any questions please **call Rob or John on (07)5445 9116 or e: farm@compassinc.org.au**

During the week prior to Easter, the entire Compass support staff team spent an intensive 4 days in professional training and development sessions. As part of this week, each centre also reviewed Trainee progress, and planned the upcoming term schedule and programs. Each staff member then completed extensive lesson-planning and documentation to support their work.

Our training involves a combination of external and internal presenters, with a regular cycle of Core Training modules and specialised disability information. Highlights of this training block were: Aggression Management by professional Trainer Kay Melleush, Introduction to Occupational Therapy by Claudio Stella (4th yr OT); Muscle Tone—what it is and what it means for our Trainees, by Cleo Sheather (4th yr OT); Body Brain therapeutic support (an extension of Educational Kinesiology and Rhythmic Movement Training) by guest Trainer Martin Nagle, Introduction to Biodynamic Gardening by Rob Birse, Policies & Procedures, Disability Service Standards and the Quality System by Norm Armstrong and Jan Thompson. We have a wonderful staff team and are grateful for their dedication!

In January Compass Caloundra crew were excited to welcome experienced disability worker PAUL RAE to the team. In March we were sad to say good-bye...

Caloundra Farewell to Paul Rae

Paul had served his Compass 'apprenticeship' in Nov-Dec last year as a casual working with the Farm crew and on taking up a permanent role at Caloundra in January, he quickly became a valued member of their team.

The otherwise joyful and exciting news earlier this year of his partner's pregnancy soon led to disappointment however, when the "intricacies" of Australia's immigration system left them with no choice but to return to the UK and family for the birth of their long



awaited child and continue with the "evolving" requirements of their residency application. We farewelled Paul (centre back) on break-up day last term. If all goes to plan we hope to welcome him back to the Compass family in a year or so. Recruiting has been underway and we will bring you news of his permanent replacement in the coming month.

From David's Desk



Update on Compass Caloundra

Talks have been ongoing with the SC Council regards the facility in Central Park and we continue to enjoy the very considerable support of Deputy Mayor Tim Dwyer for Compass as lead tenant of the existing building (renovated) OR in a new building on the same site. We recently commissioned a building report ourselves on the existing building to ascertain whether there were any immediate safety concerns for staff and trainees as well as to try to establish what our position might be around renovation versus a new building. While there is damage to various areas of the building the report did *not* highlight any immediate health risk which is great news. We'd simply need to move out until they were addressed which is not likely to occur until a decision has been reached about the future use.

On that matter I recently met with Dion Collins of Ross Planning who have been commissioned by Council to revise and update the Central Park Master Plan. Because this precinct is designated 'Sports / Recreational Use', Dion asked a lot of questions regards our future plans and I was able to highlight the benefits of maintaining Compass as a tenant in this precinct. I pointed out that Compass will act as the provider of the bridge by which:

1. People with disabilities can access and participate in their community through recreational / sporting opportunities (in addition to others), and
2. Compass will facilitate recreational / sporting activities that allow members of the community of *all* abilities and ages to participate together.

People with disabilities (particularly intellectual) cannot simply participate in their community because the opportunity exists – they require certain support with an education and training focus to build their capacity to do so. And this is why the other activities we conduct (social skill development, personal grooming and care, behaviour management, literacy, physical and emotional wellbeing etc) that may not have an apparent recreational / sports focus are vital to their successful participation. Compass is linked with [Sports CONNECT](#) and we have applied for a grant for the [Sports Ability Kit](#) (should our application not be successful Compass will still proceed with the purchase and establishment of the programme in the Caloundra community).

Dion advised that he hopes to have the revision of the plan completed in June for presentation to Council, so we hope to know more about our future in this area around that time.

Our co-tenancy of the building has had its challenges no doubt. With the final move of CSPU to Meridan Plains, we should at least gain some respite from the impact of decisions in which we are not currently considered (other random users of the facility etc). My deepest thanks to the staff of the Caloundra centre for their resilience in the face of those various challenges. If and when Compass becomes lead tenant in a renovated or new facility on that site I believe we will all think it worthwhile.

David

