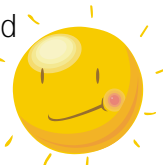


*Greetings Families and Friends of Compass,*

This edition is just full of important information, exciting events and new opportunities so read on! Trainees and staff have settled into their new routines and in some cases new teams. 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter is a very settled quarter at Compass for a number of reasons: firstly, even the newest Trainees have been at Compass long enough to have found their feet and acclimatised to their new world; and secondly with no public holidays and the great weather – chilly yes but plenty of sunny dry days—schedules run to plan and everyone gets plenty done!



One of the highlights for this quarter will be our Independent Living Power week coming up the second week in August. Power weeks provide an opportunity for some in depth exploration of the work various teams have been doing in a particular focus area. The education and training teams put aside the usual schedule for some special activities which often include excursions or guest presenters. **We'll no doubt bring you reports and photos** in the September newsletter.



Russel Kay shows off his Bike to Trainees from the Farm and Palmwoods centres

Speaking of special events, the Farm team were fortunate to enjoy a BBQ lunch courtesy of Compass supporters Russel Kay and Dan Dwyer last week. This was to celebrate the departure of Russel on the CoastLife Homes touring Bike Ride: over 8000km from Sunshine Coast through outback NSW and South Australia and back to raise funds to be shared between Caloundra Compass Education and Training and Currimundi

Special School. We are so privileged to be beneficiaries of the efforts of good people like Russel and his team. Compass are accepting all donations on behalf of the Bike Ride Appeal to be shared equally between Compass and the Special School. See page 4 for how to donate.

Thank you to the Tyrrell family for raising awareness about the great opportunity to make a difference to young men and women with a disability through fundraising which led to this particular opportunity.

Another family connection resulted in a free Blues concert by at Ilkley this past weekend with Dirt Floor Alliance with donations on the night going to Compass Institute. Every little bit helps. Please see David's article on Page 6

*Kind Regards, Jan*

**In This Edition**

- From the Service Manager, Jan
- Visiting Sculptural Artist
- Welcome and Farewell
- Charity Golf Day
- Hello and farewell
- What you thought
- Sunshine Coast Careers Expo
- From David's Desk



**Date Claimers**

**Friday 22 July 2011—15 Aug. 2011**  
Coast Life Homes Bike Ride Appeal

**Mon 8—Fri 12 August 2011**  
Independent Living Power Week

**Thursday 11 August 2011**  
Gardens and play spaces for children

**Friday 12 August 2011**  
Sculptures and place

**Sat 13—Sun 14 August 2011**  
Creative workshop weekend

**Mon 15 August 2011**  
Landscape design as social Sculpture

**Sunday 4 September 2011**  
Fathers Day

**Thursday 15 September 2011**  
CET 3rd Qtr Break up

**Friday 16 September 2011**  
Tues– Fri Group 3rd Qtr Break up

**Monday 3 October 2011**  
CET group 4th Qtr Start term 4

**Tuesday 4 October 2011**  
Tues– Fri Group 4th Qtr start term 4

# Visiting SA environmental sculptor Evette Sunset

One of the farms long term goals is to act as a draw card for the wider community, who will want to come here for the experience of beauty, artistry and diversity of socially enriching activities happening here.

We have been presented with a wonderful opportunity to take a major step towards bringing this vision into being, with a residency at the farm from the August the 10-17th by Evette Sunset.



**Gardens and play spaces for children**

Let's look at ways we are, or can be, creatively using the precious land around our homes, schools, institutions and all those fragments of public space

Evette Sunset, landscape designer and environmental sculptor has been working in such places for 25 years.

She will present a visual feast of examples in environmental transformation, using mainly on-site resources in both the private and public "backyard"

**THURSDAY 11<sup>th</sup> AUGUST**

Venue: **THE PALMWOODS UNITING CHURCH**  
Church St Palmwoods

Please book early to ensure your place. Contact Rob Birse on 0431 895 168 or email: [robbirse@yahoo.com.au](mailto:robbirse@yahoo.com.au)

Cost: \$12/ \$10conc.

We will start with repotting from natural materials situated in the garden at 7pm (optional). Evette's talk and visuals start at 7.30pm ending by answering your questions @ 8pm



**FRIDAY 12<sup>th</sup> AUGUST**  
7.30pm - 9.00pm  
Venue: **THE PALMWOODS UNITING CHURCH**  
Church St Palmwoods

Come at 7.00pm to make sculpture to take home  
Supper provided  
**\$12/ \$10 concession**

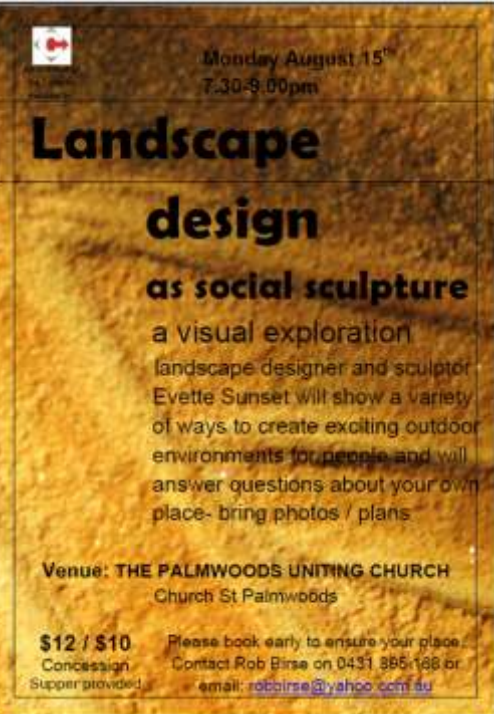
Please book early to ensure your place. Contact Rob Birse on 0431 895 168 or email: [robbirse@yahoo.com.au](mailto:robbirse@yahoo.com.au)

Evette is an environmental sculptor from SA she works mainly with natural fibres and landscape to create site-responsive, large scale installations. This may involve client or community collaborations and an educative component.

Her background is in ceramics, basketry, biodynamic gardening, energy efficient building and landscape design consultancy.

Evette's visit has come about through a long friendship with the farm manager Rob Birse and his recognition of what she could bring to the farm. Rob's first encounter with Evette's work was in 1998 at the Mt Barker waldorf school in the Adelaide hills, Where he was visiting to gain insights into establishing a garden teaching program at the Samford Valley Steiner School. Evette was the foundation gardening teacher at Mt Barker and had established the bench mark gardening curriculum for classes 6-10.

Rob was amazed by the beauty and artistry displayed at every level of Evette's work, from the layout of the children's gardens to the beautiful stone cottage she had designed and built. She has remained Rob's garden teaching mentor and inspiration ever since.



**Monday August 15<sup>th</sup>**  
7.30-9.00pm

**Landscape design as social sculpture**  
a visual exploration

landscape designer and sculptor Evette Sunset will show a variety of ways to create exciting outdoor environments for people and will answer questions about your own place- bring photos / plans

Venue: **THE PALMWOODS UNITING CHURCH**  
Church St Palmwoods

**\$12 / \$10** Concession  
Supper provided

Please book early to ensure your place. Contact Rob Birse on 0431 895 168 or email: [robbirse@yahoo.com.au](mailto:robbirse@yahoo.com.au)

To offset the cost of her work at the farm Evette has kindly offered to conduct night seminars on Thursday 11th August, Friday 12th August and Monday 15th August and two 1 day workshops on Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th August.

These are all Public seminars so please invite friends and families to come along for an inspiring time.

To book and ensure your place Contact Rob Birse on 0431 895 168 or email [robbirse@yahoo.com.au](mailto:robbirse@yahoo.com.au)



**CREATIVE WORKSHOP WEEKEND**

**13/14 AUGUST**  
9.00am - 4.00pm

**Compass Farm Palmwoods**  
48 Christensen Road, Palmwoods QLD 4555  
Please book early to ensure your place.  
Contact Rob Birse on 0431 895 168 or email: [robbirse@yahoo.com.au](mailto:robbirse@yahoo.com.au)

**Come for one (\$75) or both days (\$120)**  
Morning tea provided / bring lunch and wear old clothes

**SATURDAY**  
**WOOD FIRED OVEN BUILDING** - learn how to do it in one day and take your new skills home! We will use clay bricks and stabilised pug render.

**SUNDAY**  
**SCULPTURE TRAIL** - create a themed series of track markers and destinations on a farm visitors walk. Learn how to assess sites and make use of natural resources with South Australian Environmental Sculptor and Landscape Designer Evette Sunset.

# 2011 ANZ Compass

# Charity Golf Day

**Thursday**  
**8th September 2011**  
**4 Person Ambrose**  
**7am Registration**  
**8am Shotgun Start**

**Pelican Waters Golf Club**  
**40 Mahogany Drive,**  
**Pelican Waters**

RSVP by Friday 2nd September 2011  
 Ph/Fax: 07 5457 3716  
[charitygolfday@compassinc.org.au](mailto:charitygolfday@compassinc.org.au)

The Compass Institute is a Sunshine Coast based Charity dedicated to assisting people in "Mastering the Art of Life". In 2002 Compass followed its dream to develop a truly leading edge service for people with an Intellectual and/or physical disability. The response from the community to a developmental and transition focused service has been overwhelming and the results for the young people accessing the service have been extraordinary.



### SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

John P. Coutis is an exceptional person and the world's leading motivational speaker. Born with a severe disability that rendered his legs useless, John defied medical opinion by refusing to die. Today John speaks all around the world to tens of thousands, very enthusiastic and eager people, whom he leaves breathless. Visit [www.rollingsuccess.com.au](http://www.rollingsuccess.com.au)

**Event MC:**  
**Ashley Robinson**  
 \*(Mr. Sunshine Coast)\*

## SPONSORSHIP PACKAGE

Team of 4

# \$880

- 18 holes of golf (incl. cart)
- BBQ before golf
- On course banner display & promotion
- 8 x drink vouchers per team
- Prizes to be won
- 2 Course sit down lunch & drinks
- 4 x Attendees to the charity auction & presentation

Team of 4

# \$770

- 18 holes of golf (incl. cart)
- BBQ before golf
- 8 x drink vouchers per team
- Prizes to be won
- 2 Course sit down lunch & drinks
- 4 x Attendees to the charity auction & presentation



**YOUR NEW CAR IS JUST ONE DRIVE AWAY**  
**CALOUNDRA CITY AUTOS**  
**HOLE IN ONE CHALLENGE**



### Pelican Waters Golf Club Dress Code:

Collared shirt tucked in, tailored pants or shorts, golf or sports shoes with socks that cover ankles, soft spikes preferred.  
 \*No denim jeans/shorts, board shorts, football shorts, football socks



# Staff Update

## WELCOME SALLY

As you know 2nd term saw us undertake the process of recruiting and trialling a new staff member to fill a vacancy at Compass Caloundra.

We'd like to formally introduce Sally Ryhanen to the Compass staff team. Sally has a diverse and extensive career background and brings significant experience in training and development. She has taken to this new role like a duck to water and has settled in to the team extremely well.

Congratulations, Sally.



## FAREWELL JEFF

Some of you may be aware that Farm staff member Jeff Cullen had been experiencing some challenging health issues over recent months. At the end of 1st Semester he accepted medical advice and regretfully submitted his resignation.

We support Jeff fully in his decision to put all his efforts into giving himself the best chance of maintaining a reasonable level of healthy functioning and wish him well on his journey.



## WELCOME SARAH

Sarah Butler has had a long association with Compass Institute. She commenced a permanent position in February 2007 opening the Caloundra centre with Fiona Williams and just 5 Trainees. With a thirst for knowledge and better skills, she left permanent employment after 2 years and commenced studies in Occupational Therapy at USC. Sarah has continued to work casually at Compass as time permitted. As recruitment got underway to fill Jeff's vacancy, Sarah was surprise applicant for the role: changing circumstances had recently brought about a decision to defer Uni studies and obtain permanent work. Sarah was successful in being offered the position and commences on Monday. Having often substituted for absent Farm staff, Sarah is familiar with many of the routines and requirements, as well as staff and trainees, so she will hit the ground running. She will also bring the benefits of her years of study.



## Coast Life Homes Bike Ride Appeal

Donations can be by Cheque; Cash or Direct Deposit:

Branch: ANZ Nambour

BSB: 014669

Account: 352854114

Name Acc: The Compass Institute Inc

### 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](http://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](http://www.compassinc.org.au)



*Back in April, we sent out a survey to all trainees and their families to get your feedback on various aspects of the way we do things at Compass.*

*Approximately half of you responded to the survey, and we would like to send a big “thank you” to everyone who took the time to give us your feedback. This feedback is really important to us as it helps us identify where we are going well and the things that are important to you.*

In summary, this is what you told us:

- 100% of you are satisfied or very satisfied with the way we communicate with you,
- 98% of you are satisfied or very satisfied that we give you the support you need (we would love that to be 100%, so please could that person let us know what we can do to improve that for you),
- 100% of you are satisfied or very satisfied about how well trained our staff are,
- 100% of you are satisfied or very satisfied with the management of Compass, and
- 100% of you are satisfied or very satisfied that we maintain your privacy and confidentiality.

Some of the positive impacts identified by trainees include increased independence, confidence, skill development, community participation and integration and learning to self manage behavior.

Some of the positive impacts identified by parents and carers include increased motivation and purpose, work ethic, confidence and willingness to participate, communication, organisation, health, maturity, life skills, behavior management and independence.

It is really great to receive this feedback as these are precisely some of the areas that we target in our programs.

Thanks again to everyone who participated in this year’s survey. Look out for next year’s survey.

In the meanwhile, we look forward to hearing your feedback at any time (either face to face, phone call, email, note, Service Improvement Suggestion Form, etc). If the first time we hear that you are concerned or worried about something is through a survey, then we (you and us) have all failed in our shared commitment to open communication on behalf of the young people we support.



For further details, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Nor m

Compass once again joined with NDS Queensland (National Disability Services) in representing the Disability industry at the recent Sunshine Coast Daily Careers Expo.

The Expo is the region's most comprehensive careers, employment and training expo that offers career seekers of all ages the latest information on tertiary studies, further training and employment opportunities.



Our Community Support Officer Jo Fowell was our representative on the booth this year.

We believe this is a positive step in promoting the industry as a professional and worthwhile career opportunity and are please to support NDS in this initiative.

# From David's Desk



Hi Everyone,

I regularly receive information from a variety of government and non-government sources on news as well as various reforms and initiatives within the disability sector - some is refreshing but much is disturbing. There has been a significant reform (Growing Stronger Initiative) occurring in the sector over recent years and some aspects of that reform impact on the post school service area and/or the Disability Service Quality Standards to which service providers must adhere to maintain their accreditation. The reform aims to (amongst other things) centralise the registration and assessment process for people applying for support from Disability Services within that same department. Here is an excerpt from the minutes of a recent meeting of the Working Group managing the rollout of the initiative.

*Item: 'X' to provide advice if wait lists will impact on quality standard requirements*

*Closed: The July 2010 version of the Queensland Disability Service Standards includes amendments approved by the former Disability Services Minister, Annastacia Palaszczuk MP, on 23 March 2011. Standard 1 - Service Access and Standard 2 - Individual Needs require that assessment and eligibility is only the responsibility of the NGO 'where relevant'. This will provide for circumstances when the department is responsible for assessment and eligibility.*

This could be read as a means of waiving service provider concerns regards breaching Quality Standard 1 if the waiting period is unreasonable. The risk is shifted to the Department which appears then not to be bound by the same standard. This change may have been made because the department and previous minister realised that one of the effects of this aspect of the reform would be to increase wait list times for service.

Further to this item...

*A member raised a concern about the time people were having to wait for an assessment and that in some instances this was as long as 4-6 months. "Y" advised the department was aware that in some regions there was a considerable backlog of people waiting for an assessment which was pushing timeframes out. She advised timeframes varied in each region with some experiencing very short waiting times. The department had engaged a number of external assessors who would be working in regions where longer waiting times were being experienced. One member asked whether the department would consider sub-contracting assessment out to service providers who had capacity to do it. "X" advised that was not being considered and at this stage all assessment would be undertaken by the department.*

It is clear from this that in fact the department does not and cannot carry out all assessments (particularly in a reasonable time) as it acknowledges the need to engage external assessors... yet it will not engage service providers 'as at this stage all assessment would be undertaken by the department.'

You follow that don't you? :)

For me the most concerning statistic involved the number of post school places to be funded across Queensland... 2011-12 State Budget

*"M" gave members a briefing on the 2011-12 State Budget that had just been announced and provided members with a copy of the Agency Budget Highlights document. "M" advised Disability and Community Care Services had fared (sic) well given the tight fiscal environment and noted the highlights document did not include significant growth funding that would be available this year. Of particular note was an estimated 180 extra places for young people leaving school...*

I am not privy to the number of young people with disabilities leaving school during this period, however I am willing to hazard a guess that it is many times the number of funded places on offer. This places all the more emphasis on the Compass philosophy to take as much responsibility as possible for funding post school service through means under our own control. The main one available to us is Fundraising and this is an area in which we have begun to develop particularly over the past year. It is in all our interests to support this area in every way we can. In my own work I have focused on building connections with the business and broader community and as a result have met and partnered with people who have a genuine empathy with our service and our aspirations. This has resulted in very considerable financial and material support which has flowed straight through to benefitting **the young people we support and their families. I am grateful for their efforts as I'm sure are you, however it is up to each of us to also be pro-active in supporting Compass fundraising efforts by getting involved ourselves, engaging our family, friends and networks.**

We have our Charity Golf Day on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September at Pelican Waters Golf Club (*poster in this issue*) and I ask you to please help in making this successful. Last year we were told that our day was one of the more professional ones of its kind that had been staged at that venue and we aim to improve. This year we have an absolutely sensational guest speaker – Mr John Coutis ([www.rollingsuccess.com.au](http://www.rollingsuccess.com.au)) – an Australian man with very considerable disabilities who is one of the worlds' top motivational speakers. He alone is worth the price of admission. Please be active in promoting this opportunity to local business people in particular OR form a team of 4 people and book yourselves in for a fantastic day.

Best wishes, David