

In This Edition

- From the Service Manager, Jan
- Head Office now at the Farm
- Work at the Council nursery
- From David's Desk

Greetings Trainees, families and friends of Compass,

We're more than half-way through our first quarter already and much has been achieved at each of our centres. New and "re-located" Trainees have settled in well and are finding their feet and their routines. With only four weeks or so to go until the first quarter break, we are on countdown now for our biggest event of the Semester—the **Mother's Day Market**. While it's nearly two months away, some of that time will be eaten up by the Easter break and other public holidays so we are working hard to get things organised in advance. If you would like to help out in some way, feel free to call the office on 5445 9116 to let us know. Meanwhile check the date is in your calendars and make sure you let your friends and family know—we can promise you a fun-filled event with lots of wonderful gift ideas (Check the date claimer on the right of page for all holiday and market dates).

Til next time... Jan

I SUPPORT THE NDIS,
It's time to make every Australian count




TAKE ACTION

www.everyaustraliancounts.com.au


First Compass Farm Working Bee a great success...

A small but dedicated team of Compass parents, staff & friends attended our inaugural working bee at the farm on Saturday morning. The weather was kind with occasional misty rain-drifts and a solid cloud cover keeping the temperature down.



We had three chain-saws on the go and most of the clearing has now been completed for the new paw-paw patch.

There is a bit of green waste yet to be disposed of but some beautiful mango wood has been donated to local wood-turners.



While special expertise and equipment is warmly welcomed I can assure you there are jobs for everyone, big and small... It was a great experience being in the outdoors on this beautiful property working together.

All help is wanted so don't be shy come on down and lend a hand. The Farm team have another working bee planned before Easter and will let you know as soon as the date is finalised.

Getting a lot of media attention lately is the campaign to introduce a new **National Disability Insurance Scheme**—see at right for web address...

The Productivity Commission recommended the introduction this scheme and in the words of Australian Disability services lobby group NDS the Productivity Commission has recognised:

Current system is 'broken beyond repair'

... Unambiguous acknowledgement that the disability system is "inequitable, underfunded, fragmented and inefficient and gives people with a disability little choice ... a real system for people with disabilities is required"

Take the opportunity to check it out for yourself...

Date Claimers

Thursday 14 April 2011
Break Up Day for 1st Quarter
Friday 15 April for 2day programme

Friday 22 April—Tuesday 26 April
Easter Public Holidays

Monday 2 May 2011
Labour Day Holiday

Wednesday 4 May 2011
Tuesday for Farm & 2day programs
Compass recommences

Thursday 5 May 2011
Mothers Day Market

Sunday 8 May 2011
Mothers Day

Head office now at Compass Farm



The Christensen's Road property purchased by the Compass Institute last September not only comprised a beautifully set up working farm, it also contained buildings ideally suited to being used as Training areas, caretakers cottage and an administration/training facility. Plans were soon made to consolidate administration under one roof and relocate Head Office functioning to Compass Farm.

Because of the space constraints at the Palmwoods office admin manager, Wendy, had relocated to the Nambour office two years earlier, yet continued expansion of our service had seen the administration team continue to slowly expand and our shared office space could only stretch so far...

With the ideal facility now found, our modern-day reliance on technology (combined with the budgetary constraints of a government funded Not-for-profit organisation) meant it took a little time to gather and re-configure the resources required to set up the office infrastructure that would let us operate our systems **effectively from the new centre. Cue Queensland's "flooding rains"...**

With the significant flooding of the Palmwoods office (and the Education and Training centre) in early January necessity dictated the timing of the move! Thanks to the generosity of Paul Robertson of Maroochydoore Commander Centre (see Compass sponsors calendar for details) who donated a Commander phone system, plus the ongoing generosity of IT expert Wade Stanley installing and networking our entire system, all systems were soon brought on-line. **Although a few weeks earlier than expected, we couldn't be happier with our new facility.**

Based here now are Wendy Dangerfield—Administration Manager, Norm Armstrong—Quality Systems Manager and Jan Thompson—Service Manager, supported three days a week by Administration assistant Corinne Wessling (meet Corinne next page).

The great news is that in addition to the admin office, comfortable, welcoming reception area, the Farm management office and larger meeting room suitable for training workshops and meetings, the office is also gradually being set up to provide a real-world office/admin training facility for Trainees. Here they can practise skills required for the Business Support Services contracts as well as learning computer-based tasks and other administration duties. **We're very grateful to all those whose generosity has brought us this far. Jan**

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**

Introducing Compass Farm head office
Admin Assistant / Receptionist
Corinne Wessling.



Corinne joined the Compass team last October and has been undergoing on-the-job training in the many and varied tasks she is increasingly taking responsibility for in her busy and diverse role. In our ongoing recruitment we are always looking for much more than a set of skills and experience. Our highest priority is finding alignment between the philosophy, vision and values of the Compass Institute and those of a prospective employee because we know this is the x-factor that will ensure an empowering and lasting relationship with our valuable employees. Corinne brought relevant training and experience plus a natural affinity with the Compass Way. Her personal attributes and experience—both as a young Mum and through a family member with a disability—equip her well for her mentoring work with office Trainees. Currently working 3 days at the Farm, we know her role will only grow.
Welcome Corinne!



WORK AT THE COUNCIL NURSERY CALOUNDRA

Members of the Compass Caloundra Enrichment Unit (CRU) Meaghan and Brian enjoy some hands-on vocational work experience at the local Caloundra Nursery under the guidance of Compass staff member Rose Rimmer.

Caloundra CRU is a pilot program that sits alongside the mainstream Caloundra 3-day program. Amongst other activities, Trainees attend work at the Council Nursery every Tuesday morning

potting seedlings from the seed trays ready for their next stage of growth. Many of these plants then go on to line our streets, parks and other public areas around the coast.



Reception's day of fun in the sun at Maroochydore Beach

Down at Maroochydore beach one glorious Saturday morning, I noted a surf carnival like nothing I have seen before: 3 beach friendly wheelchairs and a swarm of blue and yellow rash shirts.

There was a constant hum of excitement and uproar of people cheering. I watched as many people with disabilities surfed the waves with happiness.

I couldn't help but be excited with them, clapping and jumping for excitement as one after the other were taken to waist deep water, placed carefully on a board and helped to surf a wave in. There was approx 20 volunteers to 1 person with special needs and what a ball they had. On seeing the organisation, the excitement and encouragement given to all, I had to grab a flyer... If you'd like to know more about it check out the following web-site. Corinne

http://www.surfershelpingsurfers.com/cal_sunshine_coast.html



LAWN AND GARDEN
Our awesome Lawn & Garden Team need a new good quality lawn mower to keep up with their workload.
Brand new or "as new" 2nd-hand mower.
Donations are most gratefully received but price is negotiable.
Contact Rob Birse, Farm Manager, on 5445 9116.

From David's Desk



Hello everyone,

We now have a new state Minister for Disabilities with the recent appointment of Curtis Pitt MP to the role as **part of the Cabinet reshuffle**. Personally I'm disappointed by this as we've worked hard to develop a relationship with the previous Minister over the past two years. You will find background information including contact details for the new Minister at <http://www.cabinet.qld.gov.au/search.html>

One of the key lessons from recent years has been to maintain our focus on providing the best possible service to young people with disabilities and their families in our community *without* major expectations of support from government. Some propose the argument that families and services in the sector are fortunate to receive government funding and that recipients need to acknowledge this is a privilege rather than a right. It is of course clear however that **government has no funds... government merely administers taxpayers' funds**. We don't have to look far afield to see how effectively or otherwise all levels of government are at that administration. We need only open the paper or turn on the TV to witness a never ending stream of stories reflecting appalling waste, incompetence and poor prioritisation.

We could spend a great deal of time commiserating on this sad fact however my aim is to face that reality and refocus on what we *can* do. In facing it, we must recognise that to appropriately resource community services such as Compass we need to look to ourselves and our community. There are some very positive avenues available to us to decrease our dependence on the above fraught process and this is where we need to go as an organisation. Last year we very successfully kicked off our fundraising efforts with the inaugural Charity Golf Day at Pelican Waters. This was thanks to the support of Pumicestone Passage Developments who provided seed funding to get us underway. We raised approximately \$11,000 from that one event. This year with major sponsor ANZ back on deck and with media partners Hot FM, Win TV and Sunshine Coast Daily, we have set the very achievable target of \$20,000. Last year Compass was also the recipient of the wonderful generosity of the **Henzells Caloundra RSL Foundation's first Gala Ball to the tune of over \$20,000**. (Note: there is *no* waste and not one cent of the above is consumed by administration – it all goes directly to facilities and resources.)

Please keep an eye out for an email coming your way about forming a **Women's Only** committee to develop and stage a fundraiser for Compass. We are also working on a concept that will allow us to raise even more significant amounts as part of developing major facilities *and* placement funding for families who are denied PSS funds.

Please feel free to talk to me directly if you have ideas or contacts that will assist us to move forward on an increasingly independent path to providing an important service.

Thank you.
David

