

Greetings Families and Friends of Compass,

Well spring has certainly sprung and we're all enjoying the fresh mornings and beautiful sunshine. It's been a productive and settled quarter and teams are all functioning well together. We have welcomed a number of 'trial' clients—this year's school leavers—to our centres in recent months and will continue to see more of them. As the future of funding and support is in such a state of flux the process of change is as stressful as ever—and in some ways more so. I trust the current nationwide focus on the Disability system—and problems therein—translates into real change with real benefit. See the NDIS web-page for more information.

One of the organisation's proactively supporting families of people with a Disability on the Sunshine Coast is "Parent to Parent". We recently attended their two day conference at Kawana "Be Inspired". We were invited to host a 'trade display' at the event—and to especially show case the farm. Jo and Damien from Compass Farm spent time there over the two days as well as Norm and Jan. People were intrigued to hear more about Compass and about the Farm enterprise—and they certainly enjoyed snacking on the fresh sugar-snap peas in our display! We enjoyed the company of "Farmer Tornabene" at the table who was a drawcard for young and old. It was also a delight to see so many of our Trainees sharing on stage as part of "Monday Tuesday" and "Sunshine Troupe" presentations. Congratulations all of you!

Kind Regards, Jan



Date Claimers

Saturday 3 September 2011
Compass Farm Working Bee

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

Tuesday 1 November 2011
Melbourne Cup day

Saturday 26 November 2011
Compass Awards Night



Palmwoods 2-Day Program Independent Living Power

Whilst many of us have been snuggling in out of the wind this month, in true Palmwoods 2-day Program fashion the beautiful sunshine enticed the team outdoors.

The sunny weather appeared as we set off by train to Landsborough as part of our independence week. Our goal was to practise skills that we have been learning to help us negotiate our community more independently.

Some of the trainees independently purchased their "GO CARD" or ticket for the train. When we arrived at Landsborough we walked around town looking for particular shops that we may use in everyday life. Shops included a supermarket, café, dentist, newsagent, chemist, and hair salon. We also were looking for common signs such as Give Way, Stop, Danger, Disabled Parking, Toilet, and Bus Stop signs. We spoke about what the signs mean and the importance of them. All the trainees enjoyed their challenge very much and did a great job.

After our hard work we all went and had lunch at a really nice café called "Just 4 Gossip" where the trainees chose, ordered, and paid for their lunch independently.

Everyone had a great day out.



Basket-ball hoop at Caloundra

The team at Compass Education and Training Caloundra are excited to show our newest piece of educational equipment—a portable basketball hoop.

Oh... and it's great for recreation and break times as well of course!

We've got some keen basketballers at the centre.

But we're putting it to good use in our lessons; so far we've used it for numeracy and directionality training; communication and social skills; cooperation, sportsmanship and inclusion practise; fitness and healthy lifestyle training; and activities to improve hand-eye coordination and depth perception.



Trainees practise their shots



Date Claimer:
2011 Compass
Awards Night
26th November

Saturday

Crowne Plaza

38 Mahogany Drive, Pelican Waters
Caloundra QLD 4551

*Make sure you mark it in your diaries
as its sure to be a stunning event!!!*

Can't wait to see you there!

Remember this?



Trainee Achievements:



Back in early August, one of our Compass Trainees, Jess, proudly showed me a newspaper cutting of her 'Letter to the Editor' which had been published in the Sunshine Coast Daily on 9th August.

I was doubly proud of her achievement – not just because she wrote a simple but eloquent letter – but because she spoke up and let her voice be heard about something she felt strongly about as a result of her personal experience.

I have no doubt her comments will help to inform the topical debate that she was responding to (i.e. the value of Chaplains in schools).

Compass Education and Training explicitly promotes 'Civic rights and responsibilities' as one of the Service Goals for our Disability service and while that might sound a little outside our everyday experience sometimes, Jess's action is a clear example of someone accepting and acting out their civic rights and responsibilities.

What a great example for the rest of us!

Congratulations Jess.

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

the dirt floor Alliance

Jim Doak, Steve Apirana, Ainsley Apirana, Mark Raffills

Blues Night held on 30 July at Ilkley
Fundraising Evening raised just over \$400
for Compass Education and Training
Organised by the TURNER FAMILY

A big thank you to the Turners
and all who donated so generously.

It is deeply appreciated.

music & poems wrapped in a generous humanity

EVETTE SUNSET WORKSHOPS

As foreshadowed in last month's newsletter, the farm recently hosted a visit by Evette Sunset, outstanding environmental artist and landscape designer from SA.

Apart from spending long hours working on a design brief to guide the long term sustainable future of the farm, Evette also conducted two one day workshops at the farm and gave three public talks at Palmwoods Uniting Church Hall—the use of which was kindly donated. Special thanks are due to Kay Nixon from the Church for her part in arranging this.



Saturday's workshop saw the construction of a beautiful mud rendered pizza oven, which had dried out sufficiently for the trainees to experience the taste of a wood fired pizza on the Wednesday before Evette left.

The culmination of Sunday's workshop saw participant's break into small groups and construct some remarkably beautiful sculptures in three separate eco type regions of the farm, using materials from their immediate surroundings. Prior to this, Evette had led the participants through an

Thank you Evette for all you brought to us in your time here.

exploration of the many ways natural materials could be used creatively.



On the 19th of June, 2011, at Moffat Beach, Caloundra, the annual Kings Beach fun run raising money for Our Lady of the Rosary was held.

Three of our trainers took part for a personal challenge. Andrew from the Compass Farm plus Carla and Keryn from the Palmwoods Centre tested their fitness and pushed their personal limits.



The fun run was divided into two events, the 10km starting from Bells Creek, and the 3km starting at Moffats.

The personal challenge of competing in a fun run was enough to get these trainers out of bed and onto a very chilly start line for a 7.15 pursuit to

test their fitness levels.

Whilst working out in the gym on the treadmills and keeping fit on the farm seemed like enough to encourage these trainers to don their running shoes, the gruelling task of keeping their minds focused whilst running up a very steep hill from Moffat Beach onto the Shelly Beach headland, then turning around and returning was constant throughout. These trainers thoughts were firmly focused on the finish line.

Although the run might not have been fun the sense of accomplishment afterwards felt great. The three trainers achieving their own personal bests.

This I'm sure is enough to get them back on board to test themselves in a 5km fun run. (Ha ha).

Submitted by trainees Brendan, Joel and Sam



Working Bee
3rd Sept
8.30am - 1.30pm
Compass Farm
48 Christensens Rd

From David's Desk



Hi Everyone,

The National Disability Insurance Scheme moved a step closer to reality recently with endorsement from the Prime Minister and the Council of Australian Governments (COAG). A Select Council on Disability Reform has been established comprising State Treasurers and Disability Ministers. The Council's role will be to consider the Productivity Commission [Final Report into Disability Care and Support](#) with COAG to develop principles to guide them. At this early stage the NDIS is structured around three tiers covering awareness / education, information and referral services and individually tailored and funded supports.

While we like to believe that the NDIS will bring an end to funding issues and ensure appropriate support for people with a disability at any time in their life, we have to be careful not to see it as a panacea. We also need to remain engaged as the eligibility criteria are determined and very importantly ensure that its rollout confers **genuine partnership status on the relationship between government and NGO's**. The top-down contractual arrangements which currently define funding and accountability between government and funded agencies can only minimise the possibilities for true collaboration.

News closer to home saw a visit from the Shadow Minister for Disabilities Tracey Davis MP, Andrew Powell MP and Mr John Connolly. They toured the Palmwoods centre and the Compass Farm on a visit spanning over two hours. We enjoyed a lively discussion on key matters affecting the sector at present and talked at length about the Compass model of further education as an effective tool in helping young people with a disability achieve their dreams. Ms Davis was very open in her aim to develop insights into how the government and the NGO sector can maximise their cooperation in support of that same aim. I believe they enjoyed their tour and we hope to see them again in the future.

Compass is about to celebrate another milestone – the 20th Anniversary of the original organisation, the Ai-kido Institute. There will be a Public Demonstration to mark the occasion to be held at the Nambour Civic Centre on Saturday 29th October from 2- 4.30pm. There will be more about this in the next issue and on the website. I hope to see you there.

Best wishes, David

