

## In This Edition

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### Dear Compass Families and Friends

It seems no time since I was welcoming you all back for the year ... and now its Easter already !!!

During first quarter we conducted a number of interviews for three positions with Compass Education and Training Services.

I would like to introduce and welcome Amber Betts and Kay Le Roux to the two new permanent trainer positions at Palmwoods. Amber and Kay join Lisa Wells who commenced in February. Lisa has a teaching and community services background, Amber has been a casual staff member with us for a few months now and has previous experience working in the disability field, and Kay has worked supporting students with disabilities in a mainstream school setting for a number of years. Each of them is very excited about their appointments and we look forward to having them as part of our hardworking and dedicated team for many years to come.

I am also pleased to announce that one of our Caloundra staff members, Sally Ryhanen, has been appointed to the position of Program Support Officer (PSO). Sally will continue working at the Caloundra centre, and will take up her new position on Tuesdays and Fridays, when she will work from our head office at the Compass Farm. The PSO is a new part-time position to support our new management restructure of late last year. The PSO role will be an evolving role, but will initially focus on areas of trainee program support, including progress plans, curriculum, assessment and reporting.

Last week Caloundra trainees and staff moved back into their centre after re-roofing and having a new ceiling installed. Thank you to the trainees and staff for their hard work moving out and back in again, and for working out of temporary accommodation during this period. A huge thank you and congratulations to Wendy for managing this project and liaising with council and contractors to get the job completed on time. Many thanks also to Anne and the Caloundra Sharks Junior Rugby League Club for their assistance in making their centre available for us to use during the renovations.

Thank you to all those families who returned the consent form to be involved in the annual audit in May. The names of all families who returned the form will be sent off to the Auditors, who will make a random selection from the list of names, and you will be advised as soon as possible if your family has been selected.

Last, but by no means least, a big thank you to all trainees and staff for the tremendous effort you have put into the first quarter. Your enthusiasm, hard work and commitment is really appreciated, and everyone benefits as a result of your combined efforts. I would like to wish all trainees, their families, friends and staff a happy, safe and well deserved Easter break.

**Norm**



## Date Claimers

**Friday 6 April 2012**  
Good Friday

**Saturday 7 April 2012**  
Easter

**Sunday 8 April 2012**  
Easter

**Monday 9 April 2012**  
Easter Monday

**Tuesday—Friday 10-13 April 2012**  
Staff Training Week

**Monday 16 April 2012**  
CET Recommences Term 2

**Tuesday 17 April 2012**  
Tues—Fri Group Recommence Term 2

**Wednesday 25 April 2012**  
ANZAC Day

**Thursday 10 May 2012**  
Mothers Day Market

**Saturday 13 May 2012**  
Mothers Day

**Monday 4-8 June 2012**  
Environmental Week





The Compass Institute was very privileged to host Kurek Ashley, motivational speaker and bestselling author on Saturday 24th March at its Caloundra Centre. Kurek ran an amazing Success Seminar & Firewalk for Compass families, staff and the general community. The Firewalk was a high-energy activity designed to overcome fears and turn them into your most powerful allies. The metaphor behind the Firewalk is what you believed was impossible - really

isn't. ...so what else in your life that you thought was impossible has been holding you back from success...

Kurek decided to run this Success Seminar and Firewalk for a fraction of its original price so that people who may not regularly get access to world class coaching are given the opportunity. Kurek has also very generously donated all funds raised to Compass.

The night ended up raising around \$3,600 for Compass!

We have heard nothing but positive feedback about both the seminar and Firewalk.

A big thank you to Kurek and his wonderful assistants for their generosity and for such an empowering and inspiring afternoon!

*Written by Amy Suttor*



## Welcome to our new Farm Manager Christopher

Chris is taking the holiday break to get acquainted with the farm before settling in with the trainee's and planting further crops in term 2.

Chris is keen to see the farm progress and produce a booming crop of various fruits and vegetables this year. With a background in a large array of horticulture including hydroponic flowers, chilli's, most small crops and his latest venture kiwi fruit he has eager to get planning and planting.

We all look forward to getting to know Chris further.

We would like to warmly welcome our new Farm Manager Chris who has just moved down from Bundaberg.

Chris has moved down without his partner to really focus on the farm and the Compass direction although he is a family man his children are currently overseas. He talks proudly of both of his children's achievements and looks forward to seeing them again.

## COMPANION CARD

### Have you got a Companion Card for your son or daughter?

Ask us how, or you can go to the Companion Card page of the Disability Services website (below) to find out more.

<http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/communityservices/community/companion-card/index.page>



### 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)



# From David's Desk



Hi Everyone,



How nice to see some sun back in the lead up to the Easter holidays... Autumn has crept up on us at last.

As you now know Disability Services Care and Community Services have provided funding for a Mobile Attendant Care service and Compass have applied for funding to provide this service in the Sunshine Coast and Pine Rivers / North Lakes areas. Thank you to all those who took a few minutes to answer our short email questionnaire about what type of support you would like to receive if we are successful with our application. It was great to see the range of ideas. I think the powers that be expect parents to focus on respite for themselves as a priority but your responses were almost **entirely about helping your sons and daughters to live life more fully. Let's hope we are successful with the application** and we can bring some of those ideas to your homes.

The State election is now behind us and the new government installed. In 2011 we made contact with the then Shadow Minister for Disabilities and hosted her at the Compass farm for a few hours. There is now a possibility that shadow ministers may not end up with those portfolios however we will be following up with the new Minister around the other opportunities that might exist for Compass to extend our service particularly in the areas of support for independent living training and similar initiatives that may provide the bridge to organisations like A Key for Me.

A second area we can focus on is further developing vocational opportunities for our young people – **I'd love to see** Compass Enterprises expand to a store or similar where we can provide retail, hospitality, deliveries and similar jobs to the Compass trainees. If any family members have similar aspirations or ideas about how to achieve these goals please feel free to talk to me directly. I am passionate about taking these steps forward because I believe that they genuinely open the door to a fulfilling life that includes living options for the future and the opportunity to experience the sense of achievement that comes from employment.

Recently I met with the regional development officer for the National Disability Services to discuss opportunities for Compass to apply for Federal funding to explore the above options. We also talked about concerns I have with the direction that State funding is heading in where I believe certain boundaries are being crossed that prohibit choice and limit decision making on the part of families with post school funding... more on that later.

On Saturday March 24<sup>th</sup> we held our first function in the Compass Caloundra centre. It was a fundraising event attended by 130 people (some of whom travelled from as far abroad as Canberra and the Gold Coast). The event featured Kurek Ashley, a Sunshine Coast based international Success Coach, who conducted a very full on personal development seminar followed by a Firewalk. Kurek trains Aikido with me and has been a real supporter of Compass from the outset, donating several of his training packages as auction items at Golf Days etc. The event was certainly a great success – I was approached by many participants who found it very inspirational – and we raised \$3,600! Kurek donated his time *and* brought a team of dedicated assistants to help out while also setting the entry price (normally \$500) at a crazy \$50 per head *just so Compass staff and families could attend!!*

Lastly... ladies stay posted as we are scheduling a "Fashions on the Green" Day in the next few months. It will be a combination of 9 holes of Golf, a lovely Luncheon and a Fashion parade / buying opportunity. More on that soon! Please remember that attending these events is not just fun... it helps us improve the service to you and your family members.



Best wishes, David

