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## Welcome Back Everyone !!!!

### .... and a big welcome to our new Families and Friends !!

The beginning of February sees the start of the Disability Services funding year. This week we welcomed several new trainees and staff to our centres and everyone is looking forward to another great year at Compass. Our staff have just completed two days of intensive training and program development to ensure that we will again this year bring you the highest quality programs and training that you have come to expect from Compass.

Families who have been associated with us for some time understand and appreciate that we operate with an extremely strong and highly committed approach to continuous improvement. Part of this is that we continually review and develop our services and programs to enable us to meet the developmental and changing needs of our trainees, and to ensure that we are giving them the optimum opportunities for developing themselves to the fullest of their potential to lead independent, purposeful and meaningful lives as active and contributing members of their community.

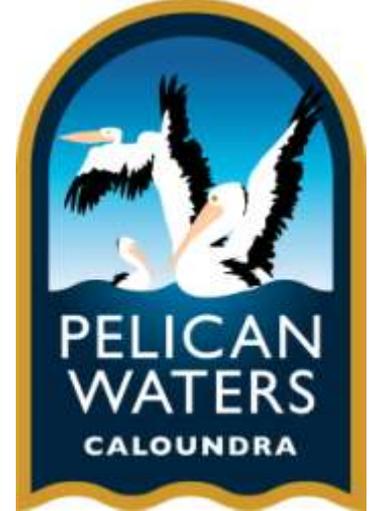
This year we welcome Lisa Wells as a permanent staff member, who is replacing Robyn at the Palmwoods centre. We are currently recruiting for two newly created trainer positions at Palmwoods to accommodate our new enrolments as well as a new Program Support Officer to join the office team.

This year we welcome back our Occupational Therapist, Suzanne Stuart whose position is made possible through our close association with the University of the Sunshine Coast. This year we will be hosting university student placements across all year levels for the first time. This is a great opportunity for us to access the latest ideas and strategies to help our trainees as well as providing a very unique placement opportunity for the uni students that they would not experience anywhere else.

Thank you to all families for your assistance and support during the extreme weather event and localised flooding across the coast last Wednesday. As localised flooding can always be an issue for Palmwoods and the farm in particular during the wet season, we are currently working on developing a comprehensive communication strategy to inform families and staff of any flooding issues that, on rare occasions, may effect access to centres and program delivery. We are planning for this strategy to include a variety of electronic media (i.e. updates on our website, Facebook, Twitter, local radio, etc). We will always endeavour to provide service whenever possible, however our primary concern will always be the safety and welfare of you, your family and our staff, and ultimately you will need to decide whether you are prepared to venture out in extreme weather conditions.

You would also have read in the last newsletter that we have been successful in securing tenancy of our Caloundra centre. As part of the new lease arrangements, Sunshine Coast Regional Council (who own the building) are carrying out a full roof replacement of the building over the coming weeks. While this is happening, our Caloundra centre will be operating their program out of the adjacent Sharks Junior Rugby League Club. We are very grateful to Anne and the Committee of the Sharks for their generosity and support as well.

Looking forward to another outstanding year working with you all. Norm.



DVD's are now available to order in both DVD & Blue Ray!

DVD – \$20  
Blue Ray – \$25

Place your orders at the Palmwoods office



## Date Claimers

**Friday 10 February 2012**

Charity Race Night at Sunshine Coast Turf Club

**Mid March 2012**

Success Seminar with Kurek Ashley

**Thursday 29 March 2012**

Break Up Day for most programs

**Friday 30 March 2012**

Break Up Day for 2 Day programs

**Monday 16 April 2012**

Return after Easter Break

## Farm Grown produce makes it to the shelf



Late last year Rick's Garage/Diner agreed to help Compass by putting up a stand of our freshly grown produce in store.

In a massive team effort by Compass trainees produce is grown, picked, packaged and sold.

This is a milestone Compass has been aiming for all year.

The Farm has been steadily producing enough veg for trainees to purchase and we have finally been able to secure a great local location to sell to the public as well.

See in store to grab your Compass produce



## Harvest Kitchen

is back as of the 8th Feb providing vegetarian lunches for the trainees at the farm.

# Charity Race Night

Money raised going to

Proudly Sponsored by



The Compass Institute is a Sunshine Coast based Charity dedicated to Assisting people in "Mastering the Art of Life".

## Friday 10th February 2012

Sunshine Coast Turf Club

Gates Open at 5pm

**Package 1- \$1500+GST**

Inc Table of TEN in the Champagne Garden & General Entry Food & Beverage

Exclusive Naming Rights to ONE Race on the Night

**Package 2- \$900+GST**

Inc Table of TEN in the Champagne Garden & General Entry Food & Beverage

### HURRY TABLES SELLING FAST

General Entry Welcome. \$15 at the Gate (General Area ONLY)  
18+ Event Photo ID Required at the Gate. Dress Regulations apply to Champagne Garden

## FARM SHED

This wonderful addition to the Compass Farm was only made possible by the generosity of several key people and businesses.

We would like to say a big thank you to Marlene and Ken of Australian Garage Supermarket for their wonderful support and effort in assisting in designing, negotiating and enlisting the manpower to erect the shed.

Also, many thanks to the Henzells RSL Foundation for the generous donation of funds from their 2011 Gala Ball that helped make this dream a reality! Thanks also to Rob Bailey for the wonderful donation of his time and machinery to prepare the site, to AJ Steel for their donation of the steel and finally to Lysaght for their contribution of the roofing.



# Break Up Day 2011

Last December's Break Up Day was a fun filled day, giving our staff and trainees a well earned reward for all of the hard work that they had done throughout the year. Break Up Day was held again at the Caloundra Centre, with fun activities and exclusive use of the water feature at the Caloundra Aquatic Centre which is always great fun as well.



There was even an unexpected visit from "Jaws", which added some excitement to the day !!!!!

A huge **thank-you** to all the Trainees and staff for getting into the spirit of the day and making it such a great day for all involved.



## Mobility Allowance



Australian Government  
Department of Human Services

**centrelink**

Mobility Allowance assists people with disabilities who are involved in qualifying activities and cannot use public transport without substantial assistance. Qualifying activities may include looking for work, or any combination of paid employment, voluntary work, vocational training and independent living or life skills training.

Many Compass Trainees may be eligible to receive this allowance from Centrelink. The standard funding rate is \$86 per fortnight, which can go a long way to assisting families with Transport costs. Check the website (link below) or contact your local Centrelink Office. <http://www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/payments/mobility.htm>

Eligible Trainees will need a letter from Compass confirming their attendance to submit with their application. This needs to be re-issued each year. Please contact Corinne at our Head Office to arrange for us to provide you with a letter.

### 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.

### Pontoon/Jetty Builder

**Are you or do you know a pontoon or jetty builder? We are in need of assistance in the construction of one at the farm**  
Please contact the office on 5445 9116

# From David's Desk



Hi Everyone,

I'd like to take the opportunity to welcome everyone – staff, families and trainees – back to Compass for another year. In a very short time we'll also be welcoming a new group of young people and their Mums and Dads to Compass. Difficult as it is for me to comprehend, 2012 is our 10<sup>th</sup> year of service. This time in 2003 (which seems like only yesterday) three young people were turning up for their first day with us. The Palmwoods centre had no floor coverings and no running water downstairs let alone a kitchen... there were old donated chairs and tables and very few resources or equipment. What we *did* have however were...

- A developmental and transition focused service model
- A clear mission of experiential further education, 'real life' skills based training and meaningful participation in the community
- An unshakeable belief in the capacity of people with a disability to continue to grow if they are given the opportunity, the encouragement and the structure
- Well developed programmes, assessment tools and schedules to provide that structure
- Well designed activities to foster maturity and personal growth
- Staff who believed in the process and were focused on the 'person'
- A strategic plan and enlightened policies, procedures and practices to guide the service development
- The high expectations that come with the previous experience of these things in action

While there is now a kitchen, floor coverings and much, much more, the heart of the service is still contained in the points above. These essential elements are very much the drivers for this organisation. I believe they are as much in evidence today as they were in 2003. The difference is we have been able to extend that service to over 60 young people at three centres and build up a dedicated staff of over 20 people.

It seems to me that little has changed in the outside world in that time however. Funding from the government is still haphazard and insufficient to provide the meaningful level of service we aim to offer. Families are still faced with an agonising choice between a developmental service that runs three or four days at most and a less personalised service available over five days. While a quality system has been introduced in the sector it has a simplistic compliance mentality and has done little to address the need for a change to education and development focused service models.

Compass has certainly grown its profile, attracting support from all levels of the community along with recognition for its achievements. Our aim is to continue to provide the means by which young people with a disability can demonstrate that they are capable of enriching the lives of others and genuinely contributing to their community. To all the parents and carers, I can only pass on my deepest admiration for the work you do every day and hope that in some small way we have been a support to you. Happy New Year.



Best wishes, David