

Dear Families

Welcome back. I hope Semester 2 will be as rewarding and productive as the first Semester. I know it is looking pretty action packed from where I am sitting. Firstly the not-so-good news, when the trainees moved out of the farm for the holiday, a hungry and unwelcome group moved in. The Farm has become known as the 'Best Duck Restaurant' in town.....yes ducks managed to devour 57 metres of tender fledgling vegetables. We are very careful what we say about the fluffy creatures in Chris the Farm manager's presence.

I had the good fortune in June to spend time with our great Compass team up in the wilds of Gympie – well they are actually just across the tracks from the Valley Rattler at the Old Gympie Railway Station. Stepping back in time into a train carriage where the team had their knockout break-up event, you would be forgiven for feeling you had slipped back into the wilder bygone times of Queensland. The station staff decorated the carriage with a 'Mad Hatter Tea Party' theme. The amazing families of the trainees pitched in with food galore and the trainees donned an array of crazy hats. Needless to say it was some event. Gympie will be taking over the Compass limelight soon at the Gympie Race Day on 27th July and a 'Compass Coffee House' open morning on the 15th August. Having met some of the families for the first time I have to applaud their strength, commitment to their sons and daughters and their commitment to Compass. However it was their sense of humour that got me through the long drive home. We talked about the difficulties and battles facing these families and one special woman quietly speaking of her son's 'distinct' way of negotiating his world, looked me in the eye and said "It's a ... long way home if you can't turn left".

Staff training was recently held over a two day period with diverse topics ranging from Speech Generating Devices (SGD) to Manual Handling safety. Lifetec, an assistive technology advisory organisation spent valuable time introducing the trainers to communication hardware, software and funding options. Timing did not allow an in depth exploration but Lifetec is now a valuable resource centre and we are hoping in the future to share this resource with you all. Manual Handling safety focussed on the trainers minimising self and trainee injury when lifting/moving people as well as objects. The training sessions also included fire safety with hands on extinguishing training; the relationship with the USC Occupational Therapy students who have been engaging in valuable projects for the trainees and Yoga for Health which is practiced in some of our centres. Enjoy July!

Kind regards
Sally Ryhanen
Acting Service Manager

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Date Claimers

Monday 12th August 2013
Independence Week

Sunday 1st September 2013
Fathers Day

Thursday 19th September 2013
CAU End of Term 3

Friday 20th September 2013
P2Day Program End of Term 3

Monday 30th September 2013
CAU Term 4 Recommences

Tuesday 1st October 2013
P2DAY Term 4 Recommences

Monday 7th October 2013
Labour Day—Public Holiday

Saturday 23rd November 2013
Awards Night

Thursday 5th December 2013
Christmas Market



Thank you Heritage Bank!

The construction of stairs and a ramp leading from the back of the Palmwoods Centre is now complete! Heritage Bank kindly donated the money for this construction through their Community Grants program and the outstanding work was completed by first class builder Anthony McDonough.



We are extremely grateful for Heritage Bank's generosity and all of Anthony McDonough's hard work, it has certainly paid off!

This week has been a power week on sustainability. We have been learning how to look after our world. This week we are making pots out of newspaper and planting lettuce. The newspaper will break down when it is planted into the ground.
Palmwoods Centre



Our Amazing Bus Driver!



The Compass Farm Team presented Alan, our amazing bus driver, with his volunteers award! Thank you Alan, we really appreciate your help.

USC Occupational Therapy Students Presentation



Yesterday Ali and Jordana (third year Occupational Therapy Students from University of the Sunshine Coast) presented Compass with their "Solution for Inclusion" plan. This plan outlines the recommendations and solutions for increased access to the Stockland Caloundra Shopping Centre as this issue has been highlighted as a concern for Compass Caloundra and their trainees. The next step - a request to present this to the Sunshine Coast Council!



Farm Break up Day

Yesterday at the Farm, we made burgers and had a fun game of footy! It really made our break up day the perfect way to end semester one!!

Continuous Improvement Plan

At Compass we 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**

available from the office, our centres or our website: www.compassinc.org.au and we will 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



AND THE FARM GUYS
GOT BUSY.....



We have had three great days at the show grounds, lots of hard work and a bit of fun thrown in.

It was wonderful opportunity to give much needed help and support back in to another community organization. The feedback from everyone involved in the show was amazing, We have been asked to help out next-year.



Well Done!

From David's Desk



The National Disability Insurance Scheme continues to be in the news with the launch sites in four states and two territories due to kick off on the first of July this year. Each site is operating differently with rollouts being based on criteria as variable as ages of the participant, programmes in which people are currently engaged and even set regional areas where people live. There is going to be plenty of confusion however **Compass's membership in the peak body, National Disability Services, ensures that we are kept very much in the loop.** I attended a forum here on the Coast last week that had the most up to date information and was relieved by some of the comments from the presenter. It seems that Queensland might not get left behind despite not having a launch site and we will have every opportunity to learn from the other states experiences.

Some of the young people at Compass did not receive individualised funding when they left school and some did not receive anywhere near enough to support the service they receive. We were fortunate enough to have been **successful in applying for approximately \$250,000 of what is called 'Block' funding under the Day Service Initiative** back in 2006 and this has allowed us to provide support to unfunded or underfunded applicants. Naturally that money was taken up very quickly and has been fully allocated every year since. The Government will cease to provide that funding to Compass and at present that is expected to occur in 2016 however I have also been **assured that no 'block funded' family will lose their funding or their support** – the amount currently allocated will be transferred to individualised funding and you will continue to have full access to Compass.

What is concerning however is that it is expected that many larger business oriented organisations will come into the Australian market offering to 'manage' the individualised funds for families and recipients (e.g. Bupa and similar). And they will charge a significant premium to relieve family members and recipients of the 'worry'. Recipients and their families need to be aware that the 'management' fees are likely to be anything from two to three times those currently absorbed by not for profits (NFP's) like Compass. My real worry is that unwitting people are going to be losing very significant amounts of money that could be applied to actual service or to purchase therapy or aids.

NFP's like Compass are being encouraged to develop an arm of the organisation that offers fund management at reasonable rates allowing people to retain appropriate levels of service provision. The fund manager will need to be entirely transparent (it can't recommend that you solely use their physios, buy aids / assistive technology from their shop, see their psychologist or speech therapist and so on. But as NFP's don't actually have those business arms, it's believed they will be able to provide a more equitable system for the recipient.

We'll continue to keep you informed as this and other changes become apparent. The Government really is making policy on the run and that's not expected to change even if the government does. If you have any worries at all about your situation (if your service is block funded for instance) feel free to contact us and we will do whatever we can to help.

On a brighter note, many sincere thanks to...

The Sunshine Coast Turf Club - Mick, Graham, Rachel and the Board and 91.1 Hot FM - Chooky, Nick, Dee, Jules, Ash and co. - for their support in the Ladies Oaks Day success – raising over \$10,000

Alex Surf Club - President Peter Duffy, Manager Ashley Robinson & Surf Girl Natalie Parker - for their support in raising \$9,000 for Compass from the State of Origin Lunch they arranged

Heritage Bank – Todd, Jayde, Sophia and crew – special mention to Jim from Maleny Showcase Jewellers - for the great effort with our inaugural Champagne Diamond Luncheon raising \$5,500

Caloundra Lionesses for their Great Gatsby movie night held in Caloundra raising approx \$2,000

Heritage Bank again! – Sandy, Leanne and crew from the Nambour Branch – for raising \$2,000 from the sale of their Show bags at the recent SC Show in Nambour

Keep an eye out for the Charity Golf Day scheduled for late September and our Charity Race Night on Friday 26th October. It seems like such a lot of events but it is only with the generosity of the above wonderful partners and people that we are able to provide all the services we do. Thank you.

David