

**Dear Trainees, Families and Friends of Compass**

We are well into our first quarter of the year and everyone has settled into their new groups and programs extremely well. Our 2012 intake group have all made an amazing transition to Compass. This is not merely good fortune or good luck, but is as a direct result of many factors, including the extremely high levels of commitment and dedication of our staff, trainees and their families, fantastic communication between staff and families, the links we have developed with schools and the high level of preparation we put into interviewing, preparing and trialling new applicants during their last year of school. Each year we review and fine-tune this process to help families adjust to the uncertain and potentially traumatic move from school to the next stage of their lives.

Caloundra Families will have been watching the renovation of the centre with interest over the past few weeks. The work has been slightly delayed by the weather, but we are hoping to be moving back into the centre in the next couple of weeks. A big thank you to the Caloundra trainees and staff for their enthusiasm and hard work operating out of temporary accommodation the last few weeks. This slight inconvenience will seem nothing once we are back in our own building, and are able for the first time to have it set up exactly as we need and want.

This week, all families will be receiving information about our annual surveillance audit being held on Thursday 24 May. This audit forms part of our registration requirement. Service users and their supports (trainees and family/carers) are invited to nominate to be part of the process if they wish, which generally consists of looking at file information and an informal interview about your experience at Compass. Please look out for the information forms and if you wish to be involved, please return them by 23 March. Please contact me for further information.

We have started our Progress Plan meeting reviews for the year. The Progress Plan is a great opportunity to look at the progress each trainee has made and to review individual goals for the following six months. You will be contacted over the coming weeks to invite you to a meeting and to set a day and time that is convenient for you. Please take up this opportunity as it is a very important aspect of planning and programming for your trainee.

Finally, we have had the pleasure of having Stacey and Tianna, two 4th year Occupational Therapy students on a placement with us this quarter. Stacey and Tianna have been working out of the Palmwoods Centre and the Farm. Their work has been undertaken under the guidance of Suzanne, and their focus has been helping us with identifying particular strengths, needs and strategies to help us better program for and assist our new trainees this year.

Have a great Month.

Best Wishes, Norm.



**Pontoon/Jetty  
Builder**  
Do you know a pontoon or  
jetty builder?  
**Contact David  
on 5457 3716**

**Date Claimers**

**Thursday 29 March 2012**  
CET Break Up

**Friday 30 March 2012**  
Tues—Fri Break Up

**Friday 6 April 2012**  
Good Friday

**Monday 9 April 2012**  
Easter Monday

**10—13 April 2012**  
Staff Training Block

**Monday 16 April 2012**  
CET Recommences

**Tuesday 17 April 2012**  
2 Day Program Recommences

**Wednesday 25 April 2012**  
ANZAC Day

**Thursday 10 May 2012**  
Mothers Day Market



# Charity Race Night

Everyone really had a great night at the Compass Coast Life Homes inaugural Race Night on the 10<sup>th</sup> of February. We certainly enjoyed having them along for the ride 😊 and wanted to take this opportunity to thank the participants once more for their generous support of the young people at Compass.

In particular of course the night would not have been possible without our major sponsor, Coast Life Homes. Thank you to Russel, Jane and Bianca. Thank you also to CSR, Monier PGH, Metropolitan Caloundra Surf Lifesaving Club, Alexandra Headland Surf Lifesaving Club and Beerwah Post Office. Darcy Tyrell & Dan Dwyer in particular did a great job in ensuring we had a good crowd on the night... 135 people was a great effort for our first event there. Thanks also to Nick Humphreys and the Board of the Sunshine Coast Turf Club for the terrific venue and all the organisation behind the scenes.

Thanks to their generous support we raised a grand total of \$7,113 – every cent of which will go towards much needed renovations at the Compass Caloundra centre. Watch this space for the before and after photos.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the next Race Night scheduled for later this year. What a great way to head into the Christmas season that will be.

*David & all the Compass Team*



## Graham Latcham Foundation Donation

The Graham Latcham Foundation has been running for several years and was set up in honour of Graham who was the long term guidance councillor at Caloundra High School as well as Mountain Creek High. Graham became a very strong supporter of the Alternative Education Aikido programmes David ran in schools to help bring young men and women back on track to a brighter future.

Over the years the Foundation has run charity events raising funds for different organisations out there doing great work. Compass was fortunate in receiving \$1,000 towards farm equipment early in 2011 to help with much needed tools for the trainees.

After many years the Foundations members have decided to wind up the organisation and the remaining funds of \$1,364.36 have been generously donated to Compass to be used towards future development.

On behalf of everyone at Compass - families, board and staff - we sincerely thank the Graham Latcham Foundation and particularly Graham's wife, Bronwyn, for the year's they've dedicated to honour what Graham held dear to him and the support they've given Compass. *We miss you Graham and thank you.*

### 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)



## Farm Manager Rob is moving on...

The Compass Farm Manager, Mr Rob Birse is moving on from his position at the end of March after 18 months in the role. Rob has certainly made a great contribution to the establishment of the farm and has put his heart and soul into it. Rob said "it feels right for me to move on to something else now and I have greatly appreciated the opportunity to get to know and work with the trainees and their families. For a new-comer to the disability sector, it has been inspirational and eye-opening. I wish the Farm and all involved with Compass well and will look forward to seeing everyone from time to time."

We are very grateful of his efforts and wish he and his wife Lorraine all the very best for the future.

Whats  
happening at  
Compass this  
month.....



Celebrating  
5 Yrs  
with Compass

You are invited  
to the



on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March  
with Kurek Ashley.

The seminar will be held at our Caloundra Centre – Central Park Road, Arthur Street, Caloundra from 2pm – 7pm.  
See Page 4 for more details.

Kurek Ashley is one of the most dynamic, in demand speakers and inspirational teachers of our time. He is a true visionary whose ideas have impacted the lives of millions of people around the world. Meeting Kurek, whether it is in person, through his books or through his programs, he ignites the desire in you to want to live your life to the fullest and he powerfully gives you the tools to do it.

The seminar and Fire walk will be priced at \$50 per person and only \$25 for your family members that also attend or \$100 for a family of 4.

Kurek is putting on this special event for Compass at a ridiculous price, considering tickets are usually over \$1000 each! And he is donating all funds directly to Compass.

Bookings require full names of attendees and payment to be complete. You can contact Amy at the Palmwoods Office on 54573716 any time to book. The seminar and Firewalk has been **opened up to the public and with Kurek's popularity places are not going to stay free for long.** I can guarantee that this will be an event you will not want to miss.

*We hope it changes your life!*



# SUCCESS SEMINAR & FIREWALK

Saturday 24th March 2012

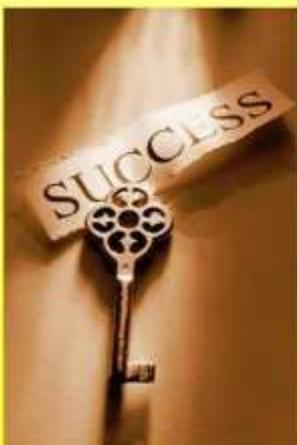
Compass Caloundra

Central Park Road, Arthur Street

2.00pm—7.00pm

**Kurek Ashley empowers, inspires & motivates...**

This high-energy activity is 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...



## SPECIAL OFFER

Pay \$50 for your ticket and family members pay half price  
or family of four: \$100

**P: (07) 5457 3716**

**E: amy@compassinc.org.au**

\*Firewalking is optional\*

**All funds raised go to the Compass Disability Service**

# From David's Desk



Hi Everyone,

The year has got off to a great start with the arrival of our new trainees. I hope to meet all the parents over the next few weeks and please feel free to give me a call if you'd like a chat about your goals for your son or daughter and your experience with Compass. It's also a great idea to have a good look around our website and at past newsletters to get an idea of what types of activities we're involved in... it's easy to become familiar with the centre where your son or daughter is attending and not become acquainted with the rest of the organisation.

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February was an absolutely fantastic night of excitement at the Sunshine Coast Turf Club which hosted the inaugural Compass & Coast Life Homes Charity Race Night. Thanks to sponsors Coast Life Homes, Monier PGH, CSR Gyprock, Beerwah Post Office, Alexandra Headland Surf Lifesaving Club, Caloundra Metropolitan Surf Lifesaving Club and all those businesses and individuals who took tables for the night. We had 135 very happy people at the event and many have put their hand up to be involved again. Three people played key roles in making the event a reality – Darcy Tyrell, Dan Dwyer and Russel Kay – as well as Russel's daughter, Bianca, Wendy and Amy on the bookings and payments etc. While we don't have final figures it appears that the evening has raised around \$7,000 towards the very important renovations at the Caloundra Centre. We are already planning the next event to be held in early December this year so start saving your pennies – I'd love to see more families, young people and staff enjoying themselves at the event next time round.

This month we hosted a visit from the new Regional Director of the Department of Communities. It was an excellent opportunity to let the Director see firsthand the work Compass is doing here on the Sunshine Coast and to profile our model of further education, training and vocational opportunities (supported or unsupported). Remember, while we take this for granted, it is a very rare approach in this country where most post-school service provision has no structured, assessable, developmental pathways. My hope is that through this type of exposure we can influence the wider acceptance of this model in order that as many young people as possible can benefit from it.

The partnership with the University of the Sunshine Coast is paying further dividends this year with the current 7 week placement of two fourth year students. We really value their input and from speaking to them, they are really enjoying the chance to gain experience here at Compass while applying what they have learned. This placement will develop further through the year with a range of further placements all overseen by the qualified Occupational Therapist on Compass staff part-time now – another feature of the partnership. Finally we will also soon be welcoming two new Support Trainers to our staff to complement the excellent team now in place.



Best wishes, David