

In This Edition

- From the Service Manager
- MAJOR Sponsor for COMPASS
- Speed on Road
- RUN for a Cause
- From David's Desk

Dear Compass Families and Friends

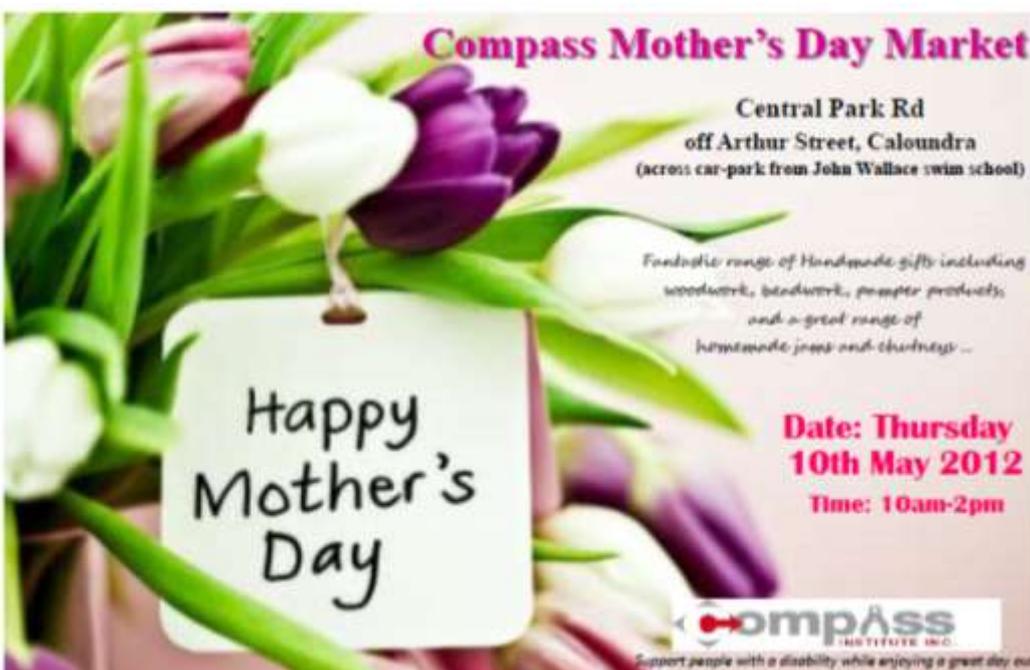
Everyone is getting really excited about our Mother's Day Market coming up next Thursday, 10 May at the Caloundra Compass Centre. As always, we will be selling a wide range of products made by our trainees as part of their Workplace Training (Craft) program. There will also be farm produce for sale and food and drinks, along with a number of outside stall holders in attendance. Please come along and support and enjoy our market and we know that you will pick up some wonderful gifts at truly bargain prices. It means so much to our trainees to be able to see their hard work being appreciated, admired and purchased as well as being involved in the process.

By now you will have received some tickets for the Mother's Day raffle. First prize is a lovely handmade quilt donated by the Caloundra Quilters Group. Second prize is a lovely engraved frame/album and third prize an engraved pen both donated by E&J Engraving Services. The raffle will be drawn at the market.

Just a reminder about Service Hours. Our centre programs operate from 9:00 am until 3:30 pm. To ensure the safety of your son or daughter, and to cause the least disruption to our trainees and programs, we recommend that drop off and pick up times are arranged as near as possible to these start and finish times. We acknowledge that work commitments and/or traffic may impact on this, and there will always be times when trainees will need to arrive late or leave early from time to time. As our centres are a workplace training environment for our trainees, it is important that trainees are able to participate and complete their morning and afternoon routines and tasks and start and end their day as part of their group. Thank you for your ongoing cooperation with this.

This week and next week are Power Weeks. A Power Week is when the regular program is substituted for a themed week. We have Craft Power Weeks leading up to the Mother's Day and Christmas Markets, where trainees and staff put the finishing touches onto the products they have been making throughout the year as well complete packaging and sales preparation. In June this year we have an Environment Power Week leading into World Environment Day, and in August we have our Independence Power Week where we explore all sorts of ways to help increase our independence in our homes and the community.

Have a great month! Norm



Compass Mother's Day Market

Central Park Rd
off Arthur Street, Caloundra
(across car-park from John Wallace swim school)

Fantastic range of Handmade gifts including
woodwork, beadwork, paper products,
and a great range of
homemade jams and chutneys...

**Date: Thursday
10th May 2012**
Time: 10am-2pm

compass
INSTITUTE INC.
Support people with a disability while enjoying a great day out.



Heritage
Palmwoods Branch

Date Claimers

- Thursday 10 May 2012**
Mothers Day Market
- Saturday 13 May 2012**
Mothers Day
- Monday 4-8 June 2012**
Environmental Week
- Monday 11 June 2012**
Queen's Diamond Jubilee holiday
- Friday 15 June 2012**
Sunshine Coast Show
- Thursday 21 June 2012**
Break up day Break up

News Flash

The Heritage Community Branch Palmwoods has come on board as Major Sponsor of the Compass 2012 Gala Dinner Awards Night.

This year is our 10th Anniversary and their generous support will allow us to make this a truly great event for all the young people, families and staff.

Heritage Branch Manager, Todd English, said he was delighted to get involved further with Compass.

Crowne Plaza Pelican Waters have again offered Compass free use of the Grand Ballroom and planning is underway for Saturday 24th November... please make sure you put this date in your calendar now!

I can't say too much but there is a rumour that a very special guest has already agreed to come along that night and we are working on a few more to help us celebrate. Stay tuned!!



Farm Families—GO SLOW

Christensens Road has a recommended speed limit of 40km due to it being an unsealed loose gravel road with blind spots and narrow sections.

Parents please be mindful of your speed along Christensens Road as there are other road users who live around the centre including pedestrians and horses.

We have been made aware of drivers doing excessive speed for the road and ask you all to please

SLOW DOWN.



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

Tractor for Sale

Compass Farm is looking to upgrade their tractor. As the farm expands production we need a bigger unit able to handle full size implements. Sadly, we can't afford both, so our trusty Kubota has to find a new home.

For any further information please contact Chris at the farm on 0417 770 963



Kubota Tractor
H7100 4WD with
Hydrostatic
Transmission.

In good condition. Grass tyres. Two speed PTO.
High and Low ratio gearing.
Folding Roll-over Bar.

Comes complete with 200 litre PTO spray unit with two hand guns, and light duty trailer.

Also mid-mount mower unit. (Not in working condition)

\$9,900 complete, or will split.





Run for a Cause, Run to make a difference!



Have you ever wanted to be an Every Day Hero and raise money for a cause close to your heart? Now is your chance!

Be an every day hero and raise funds for a cause and nominate your interest with me, Corinne, today at admin@compassinc.org.au

Since having Breelle at the end of last year I have been back into getting fit and healthy. I have always been an avid runner but never ran for any real purpose... that is until I saw that I could be an *Everyday HERO* and raise funds for a cause close to my heart. (I tried to raise funds for Compass but we were too late to register – next year though! :)) Not only that but I could attempt a half marathon pushing a pram to raise a bit more awareness. My heart was racing in excitement as I saw the flyer for the first time ... the Sunshine Coast Marathon and community run festival to be held in August 2012. I was excited to see a picture of a person racing in a wheelchair because it meant 2 things to me 1. The event is disabled friendly and 2. I could run with a pram. What an event to be on the Coast!

Since having both my girls I run with them in occasional fun runs but over the past couple of years I have noticed events not allowing prams to enter (it is usually in the race rules just under No iPods or music device). I was then shocked to find out I was not alone - wheelies were not allowed also. The reason I was given is that people in wheelchairs or with prams are a safety risk.

That really got me frustrated – **wheelchairs aren't cheap and I paid a lot of money for my Running pram (not to mention servicing costs)**. Upon further reading I found out that we could only run the 2km and 5km events. How disappointing. So I took it up with the committee, speaking on behalf of all parents wanting to know why we were being segregated? Shortly after asking I was advised that they had now opened entry up so we could compete in the 2km, 5km, 10km and the half marathon distance. What a victory!

This really is now an event for the whole family. Wheelies can have a support person on course with them for free and we can **compete with our mums, dads, brothers and sisters in varying distances. We don't need to be elite athletes... we just need to be able to have a go and say that we have run/walked in a race.** The advantage to this race is that we can raise funds for a cause like Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Aspergers, Angelman Syndrome, Down Syndrome and plenty more. And you never know... you might get a free shirt or hat out of it. It would be great to see you all there supporting and encouraging each other so why not register your interest with me today at admin@compassinc.org.au we need at least 5 people to register a team and we will receive 10% discount upon registration.

Get in and have a go!— 17 Weeks till the event. Plenty of training time.



From David's Desk



Hi Everyone,

What is a Social Enterprise?

This month I thought I'd take the opportunity to talk about the Compass Farm and our goals to develop more social enterprise based opportunities for flexible employment for our young people. Compass Farm is modelled on the concept of a Social Enterprise or Social Firm - **an idea that originated in Italy in the 1960's and was revitalised in the UK in the 80's**. In recent times we have seen growing interest from the community sector in Australia and overseas in utilising social enterprise as a means of responding to the employment needs of those excluded from the labour market. This approach has resulted in the establishment of a number of highly successful and innovative social enterprise employment models, notwithstanding the fact that nearly all social enterprises deliver employment outcomes. There is a broad range of social enterprise models, each informed by various research and studies in respect of their various contributions to social and economic objectives. Social enterprise is a highly effective way of providing long term self-sustaining responses to social issues impacting on individuals and communities. Social enterprises often succeed in responding to social issues that welfare programs and mainstream businesses are unable to address. Social enterprises are businesses that are set up for the principal purpose of delivering social outcomes through trading activity. Profit-making social enterprises utilise the majority of their profits to advance their social goals. While there is a breadth of social needs that social enterprise is responding to, Compass aims to build capacity in both the enterprise and the young people with a view to eventually offering flexible supported & paid employment.

The Farm is Compass's first real venture into social enterprise however we are also endeavouring to develop our Property Maintenance enterprise along the same lines. We acknowledge that the young people of Compass have diverse interests, abilities and goals and we aim to be able to cater to these in the future with a variety of vocational opportunities all modelled on social enterprises.

How does the experience differ for the young people when they transition from the Education and Training service? The social enterprise focus must be on viability - on ensuring there is a sustainable real world operation... **the best business idea in the world is of no use if it isn't economically sustainable. Is the Farm setting suitable for everyone? The simple answer is no, because it may not suit the person's needs, goals and capabilities. As mentioned above our goal is to develop a series of viable social enterprise settings** across various sectors including retail, hospitality, office etc that will provide greater variety and flexibility so in the future we *can* offer a flexible path for everyone.

What is the role of staff in a social enterprise setting? One of the biggest differences between a business and a social enterprise, outside the reason for its existence, is the employment of staff who have a background in working with people with disabilities in combination with real skills that suit their role in the industry area. It means that they can balance assisting the young person to **develop real world skills in that area while understanding their needs. The social aim is to increase the young person's ability to function in that setting and meet those real world expectations while experiencing all the sense of achievement that goes with a job well done.** Social role valorisation has been a key plank in the move away from the medical model of disability towards the more enlightened social model and vocational opportunities are vital to this process. Training for Compass staff based at the enterprises **focuses on developing 'experiential teaching' skills that allow them to work alongside the young person, guiding them towards increased independence all the while.**

What should we expect from the young people who attend the Compass Farm and other enterprises in the future? Like you, we are trying to help them become increasingly responsible young people. When my sons started work they took sole responsibility for setting their own alarm, preparing their own lunches, getting their work gear ready, being punctual and so on. My eldest son worked outdoors so he had to have his work boots, sun block and hat organised before he left home and so on. Initially it was a **struggle to make them stay on top of it but in the end it contributed to their sense of self (I'm a worthy person - responsible and organised)** and eventually became another source of pride for them. This is the same positive message and achievement to which I passionately believe all young people can have access. I believe also that people always rise or fall to meet the expectations others have of them, so it's important that we maintain high expectations pertinent to each individual.

What can parents or carers of people engaged in a social enterprise do to help make the experience positive? You can, along with us, encourage the young people to realise that this is *real* and that they can assume more responsibility than they may think... and that the rewards for that can be incredibly satisfying. I hope that we can move towards the day when the Farm and other Compass enterprises provide genuinely assessed and paid roles to all of our young people who aspire to the responsibilities and the rewards.

Best wishes, David

