

Dear Families and friends of Compass

Welcome back staff and trainees to the last quarter of the year. This is a busy and exciting time with The Compass Charity Race Night, the Awards Night and our Christmas Market all coming up in the next few weeks. Make sure that you mark these dates in your calendar and we hope that you can come along and join in the fun and support the trainees of Compass.

This quarter we welcome back Ross and Jo who have both been on leave for a while. Coinciding with her return, Jo's work in the Community Support Officer role has expanded and she will now work in this role three days per week. As a result, Andrew, who has been filling the Farm Team Manager role during Jo's absence, will now permanently continue on as the Farm Team Manager. We wish Jo and Andrew every success in their positions.

This quarter we welcome Siobhan and Alice, third year Occupational Therapy students from the University of the Sunshine Coast who are on a seven week training block with Compass.

By now you should have received your new schedules for the quarter. Staff were involved in a staff training day on 2 October finalising their courses and assessments for the remainder of the year. I would like to take this opportunity to publically acknowledge and recognise the dedication and professionalism each and every one of our staff brings to their work and the commitment that they make to ensure that they create the best possible environment and opportunities for the trainees they work with.

Progress Plans continue to be conducted in an ongoing cycle. This is a really important aspect of our individualised planning and goal setting for each of our trainees and we really appreciate the time families make in coming along and discussing their trainee's progress and planning for the next six months. Meetings usually take less than half an hour. Team Managers will be in touch to invite you along to your next scheduled meeting when it becomes due.

We are in the process of finalising our calendar for next year. Here are the proposed quarter dates for trainees to help with those holiday plans next year. Staff will be attending Staff Training during some of the vacation time.

- 1st Quarter: 14 January - 28 March 2013
- 2nd Quarter: 15 April - 21 June 2013
- 3rd Quarter: 8 July - 20 September 2013
- 4th Quarter: 30 September - 12 December 2013
- 2014 recommencement: 13 January 2014

Have a great month everyone, Norm.



Save the date



**Date Claimers**

**Friday 26 October**  
Compass Charity Race Night

**Saturday 24 November 2012**  
Awards Night

**Thursday 6 December 2012**  
Christmas Markets

**Tuesday 11th December 2012**  
2 day Program Break up

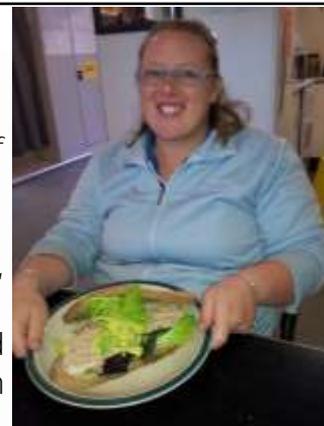
**Thursday 13th December 2012**  
CET Program Break up

**Monday 14 January 2013**  
Compass Recommences

# Gourmet Sandwich Making



This term we have undertaken a module out of the hospitality training package, making gourmet sandwiches. The trainees go shopping for fresh ingredients, then we return and prepare our work areas. The object is to select quality ingredients and present them as you would find on a sandwich in a café.



We use different bread types, and ingredients every week. We are learning quantity control, uniformity, and presentation.

Therefore clean plates, and all sandwiches look the same, displaying all the ingredients that we have used.

## Sunshine Coast Regional Council's 'Stream Stabilisation'



In June this year we received a generous 'Stream Stabilisation' grant of \$3,899 from the Sunshine Coast Regional Council.



The grant has been used to repair and modify an section of

natural waterway crossing the farm property that was very susceptible to erosion. As well as further degrading the stream and its banks, the erosion was contributing to silting further downstream, inside and outside our property, and decreasing water quality.

The first step addressed the stabilisation and rehabilitation of this natural waterway by halting the erosion in the most vulnerable section. We re-shaped the banks to ease off the batter, placed existing rocks to stabilise the banks under excess flow, and undertook intensive planting of native species on stream banks to hold the banks and buffer run-off. We planted species recommended by Barung Landcare Services.



The stream on the farm is now much healthier and its bank are safer for all to use including trainees, staff and visitors.



WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE



### 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](http://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](http://www.compassinc.org.au)

# From David's Desk



## Budget Month

We had Disability Action Week this month and Compass certainly was active in getting our profile out there. On the Monday I had an interview on ABC radio with John Stokes followed by a news story on Win TV regards our new Ambassador, John Coutis. I hope you got to see the footage – we had so much fun shooting that story. **Finally there was also a very good story in the Sunshine Coast Daily that week about John's new role, all of the above drawing attention to the needs of young people with disabilities and their families in a very positive light.**

I attended a Budget Breakfast in Brisbane earlier this month where the key note speaker was the Minister for Disabilities and Child Safety, Tracey Davis. Ms Davis visited Compass in late 2011 while she was still in the shadow portfolio. It has been a whirlwind introduction to the sector over the past 5 months for her given the responsibilities that extend beyond disabilities. The Newman government had delivered its 2012-13 budget the day before with an approximate increase in disability funding of 3% overall. It also included an indexation rate for disability services grants of 3.54% which is significantly better than the rate applied to most of the other government programmes. The main features of the budget relating to the disability sector were:

- \$22m respite initiative for 16-25 year olds;
- \$4m for a new program "Parent Connect" which will link the parents of newborn children with disability to services and support;
- \$10.9m in funding through the Department of Education for more speech pathologists in State Schools.
- \$15m towards a new initiative "Elderly Parent Carer Innovation Trial" (there is some concern around mixed disability and aged care developments – an issue which has only so recently been addressed)

Before the budget release there was some talk that the government would attempt to achieve savings of \$260m over four years from "efficiencies gained in the delivery of services in the non-government sector by ceasing or reducing funding for lower priority projects and services and requiring efficiency improvements from State funded organisations." There was no mention of this at the budget breakfast although the Minister did pointedly refer to structural changes within her department to improve efficiency. I believe we can infer from this that the savings will come from this alone although more detail will come out over ensuing weeks. In all the Minister **spoke quite passionately about her desire to be in this role and to make a difference. However if "Yes Minister" can teach us anything, it is that the obstacles to that occurring may be very close by her.**

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of this month Compass Farm celebrated its second birthday! Every time I go out there I feel like I'm walking around in a dream. It was in my head for so long and now it is a growing reality. I'd like to draw your attention to the great work that has been done there this year by the team... everyone comments on how it is looking and I can tell you the gardens have become quite productive. Remember to get your produce there if **and when you'd like some wonderful organic vegies. On another matter we will be back to you very soon** regards the results of the survey we sent out a few weeks ago regards an after-hours service. I look forward to seeing you all at the Awards Night if not before.

David

