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*Working with Ability*



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## C.E.O.'s Comment

I am not sure whether it's an urban myth, but Charles H. Duell, U.S. Commissioner of Patents, in 1899 was rumoured to have resigned on the basis that he believed that everything that was going to be invented, had been invented.

Each year I think we have pretty much done everything that can be done, and it is at that moment that 'stuff' comes along that's new. 2008 has seen a greatly expanded web presence, advertising on the radio, and program growth of approximately 40% , as well as a host of new 'stuff' for NOVA to be involved in.

Most recently I've had a great time in Broken Hill, however, in 2008 I visited every NOVA outlet and spent time working with job seekers and my staff in a wide range of settings from the city to the bush – while lots of things were new, there was one theme that remained the same – the enthusiasm of the people we are currently helping to get jobs, their obvious skill, and the dedication and commitment of my colleagues.

In a few weeks we will be having a short break for the Christmas holidays. I hope you enjoy your break too; stay safe and well, and I look forward to sharing more exciting and inspirational stories with you in 2009.

**Martin Wren C.E.O. NOVA Employment**

## International Day of People with Disability

International Day of People with Disability was established in 1992 by the United Nations General Assembly to promote awareness of disability issues and the abilities of people with disability. It is celebrated worldwide on 3 December each year. The day unites disability organisations, people with disability, businesses, governments and communities in celebrating the achievements of people with disability and aims to promote an understanding of disability issues, and mobilise support for the dignity, rights and well being of people with disability. And like so many other organisations around the world NOVA celebrated too.... For the full article see page 2.



## Rocking down the River in Taree



An enjoyable afternoon cruising the magnificent Manning River which dominates the North Coast of NSW was the way the team at NOVA Employment Taree decided to celebrate IDPWD. They were joined by locals with disability, students from the local high school, carers and workers from support agencies such as Centrelink.

Thanks must go to Roy Lewis who kindly donated \$500 to show his support for the day. The afternoon was filled with laughter, singing, and dancing. While the BBQ seared our sizzling sausages, salads were prepared by hardworking staff. For more view the videos at: [www.youtube.com/novaemployment](http://www.youtube.com/novaemployment)

## Celebrating with Certificates at the Cafe

The United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed 3<sup>rd</sup> December as the International Day of People with Disability. The day commemorates the anniversary of the General Assembly's adoption of the World Programme of Action concerning Persons with Disabilities. The Programme promotes understanding and awareness of disability issues. The goal of the day is to have full and equal enjoyment of human rights and participation in society by persons with disabilities.

In 2008, the Centrelink staff based in Walgett decided to honour Cafe 64 staff by making them lunch. During this lunch Debbie Hutchinson and Elaine Lang presented cafe staff with Certificates of Appreciation and gift bags filled with goodies. Elaine said "It gives us great pleasure to celebrate International Day of People with Disabilities with you and would like to acknowledge your achievements in the work place and the contributions that you all have made to this community". Debbie wrote the following in the cafe's visitor book, "Cafe 64 is a fabulous business! It aids people to recognise their abilities rather than concentrating on their disabilities. Cafe 64 provides a valuable meeting place, with excellent food and service, for the Walgett Community. Well done and keep up the good work, you're giving Walgett a good name."

The Cafe staff were very pleased that they were recognised for their abilities and achievements.

Priscilla Lillyman, Cafe Administration Assistant and Support Trainer



## Being the best at Bowling in Foster



NOVA staff and jobseekers at Tuncurry celebrated International Day for People with Disabilities by joining the **Celebrations for People with a Disability Bowling Tournament** organised by Lifestyle Solutions.

The event was run with the assistance of Forster Ten Pin Bowling Club.

It was a proud moment when the team from NOVA were announced the winners and were presented the trophy.

The event was covered by Prime TV and included as part of the local News presented on television that night.

Martin Wren, CEO of NOVA Employment wishes to pass on his congratulations to another set of 'NOVA Champs'.

## NOVA Training Exciting Times!

Since April 2002, NOVA Training has been providing staff working in the disability industry with the very best professional development programs available. As a result of dogged determination, hard work and staying true to the founding philosophies of NOVA Employment, we are succeeding in our aim. Nova Training was set up primarily to support Nova Employment staff. However, over the last 6 years it has grown to cater for students from a variety of organisations within the community services sector. It seems you can't keep a good thing under wraps!

We currently provide services to Employment Consultants, Care workers, Residential Support Workers, Community Support staff, Managers, and Supervisors who operate in Employment, Home Care, Residential Support and Day Options services throughout New South Wales & Queensland, and have students located in Sydney, Gosford, Port Macquarie, Taree, Coffs Harbour, Lismore, Grafton, Kempsey, Gunnedah, Tamworth, Inverell, Moree & Tweed Heads & Queensland.

As you can imagine, this keeps us extremely busy!

You may be wondering who is on our team and what we deliver? Please visit our website at [www.novatraining.com.au](http://www.novatraining.com.au) for more information about us (it's still in the process of being improved).

Our team currently consists of Christine Harrington, Assessment Coordinator, responsible for the day to day management of the program and staff and ensuring we provide top notch service; Stacy Hansard, our Help Desk and Administration Officer; Emma Shahin, Mary Mulholland, Peter Hickey and Carmel Oxley our Assessors; Emma also coordinates our marketing program; and the department is under the overall management of NOVA's Training and Development Manager, Anne Goyer.

## Aboriginal Pilot Program in Moree



Anna Stanley, Audrey French, Mary Mulholland, Peter Hickey, Kim Walton, Donna Swan

NOVA Training currently runs a pilot program in Moree for a group of Indigenous Home Care staff, who are completing either Certificate III in Home & Community Care or Certificate IV in Frontline Management.

Our challenge is to engage with these students and provide a meaningful service that is culturally sensitive and meets their individual needs so that all participants are able to complete their course and achieve a nationally recognised qualification.

Assessors, Mary Mulholland & Peter Hickey, are developing and running workshops for some of these students, and all students are doing extremely well.

Here's what Mary has to say....

*"Our students come from a variety of different backgrounds, both personally and professionally overcoming challenges that you or I may never have to face. These students are working within the Aboriginal community to deliver assistance to people with disabilities and the ageing. They have a wealth of knowledge, experience and understanding of their own community. Our job is to assist them to have these skills & this knowledge recognised and to provide training to enhance their work within this field.*

*I have personally seen an increase in their self esteem, skills and confidence. We've really looked at each individual student and their learning needs and have tried to tailor the program to cater for each student. Our workshops are always fun and well attended, no workshop is complete without lunch and lollies!*

*It's been a real privilege and pleasure to see these students grow and come together as a team. We may be delivering the training, but we have learnt so much in our interactions with them, and always look forward to our trips to sunny Moree."*

NOVA Training is proud to be representing Nova Employment & Training Inc as part of the disability and community services sectors. We welcome your feedback on our service, and would love you to share your experiences with us.

**The NOVA TRAINING Team**

## Sensational Sarah

Sarah attended a Job Club that was being run at the local high school by one of NOVA's Transition to work job coaches. At first Sarah appeared a little shy however as she got to know the others that attended she became more comfortable she allowed her talents to shine. Sarah is eighteen, and has an intellectual disability but this didn't stop her completing year 12. After finishing school, Sarah registered with NOVA and with the support of her employment consultant, Heather, she was determined to find employment in aged care.



Sarah is caring and compassionate and everyone believed she would do well in her chosen field of work. With the help of NOVA Sarah did find employment at a local aged care facility.

When Sarah told her mother and grandmother that NOVA had found her work they cried. Sarah's message was short and direct when she rang her older brother and sister;

**"I told you I would get a job."**

Sarah is the first child in her family to finish school and get a job.

Nova continues to support Sarah at her worksite. The next goal is to help her with travel training so she can achieve even more independence.

## Tuncurry 2008 End of Year Presentation



The Transition to Work Program at Tuncurry held their Annual Presentation this month. Attendees included the program's coordinator Caroline Santangelo, the four trainees, and 19 parents, carers, friends and employers who have offered work experience opportunities.

The trainees looked impressive in business attire which they had purchased themselves from funds they had saved over the previous three months. Even more impressive were the speeches they had written especially for the occasion.

These speeches included information on what the Nova Transition to Work Program was all about and what the trainees enjoyed most about attending the program. Each speech was unique and the guests appreciated their efforts with enthusiastic applause.

All trainees received a 'Certificates of Appreciation'. Joel for his incredible ability to remember details, Amanda for her creativity, Paula for her flair and Mandy for her patience.

The trainees have now reached the end of their two year program. To celebrate this they received a Certificate of Attendance and a trophy engraved with their name and the Nova logo surrounded by a gold star. The trainees loved these!

NOVA also presented each employer with a certificate and flowers in recognition of their support.

Job Coach Joanne was thrilled when the trainees surprised her with a poem they had written together and she is immensely proud their efforts over the year.

The trainees had prepared chicken sandwiches, a cheese and fruit platter and Mandy made a homemade chocolate cake (from scratch-no packet) for our afternoon tea.

The parents and guests had an enjoyable afternoon and were pleased to be part of the very successful Tuncurry Transition to Work program.

**If you require information regarding NOVA's Transition to Work program please do not hesitate to contact Caroline**

**Mobile:** 0424 175 240 **or Email:** [caroline@novaemployment.com.au](mailto:caroline@novaemployment.com.au)