

## NOVA OFFICES NSW

- Bankstown
- Blacktown
- Bourke
- Broken Hill
- Camden
- Campbelltown
- Canterbury
- Caringbah
- Cobar
- Forster
- Hurstville
- Ingleburn
- Katoomba
- Penrith
- Port Macquarie
- Richmond
- Rockdale
- Rouse Hill
- Springwood
- St Marys
- Taree
- Windsor

## QLD

- Beaudesert
- Beenleigh
- Logan

## CEO Comment— *Martin Wren*

*August has been a very busy month for the team at NOVA.*

Each year we run an outlet open day at each office (this will continue through September and, if you get the chance, pop along, meet the team and see for yourself what's being achieved by people with a disability) and I have been able to attend at our Taree, Forster, Springwood, Rockdale and St Marys offices.

It has been a privilege to see how local employers view their NOVA workers with each success story recognizing individual ability and working to encourage other employers to give our job seekers a fair go.

People that have a disability can't do everything, but neither can their non-disabled peers. What the open days have done is highlight what can be achieved through a combination of appropriate pre-employment training (and I would like to recognize the wonderful job being done by NOVA's Transition to Work team), a good Job Match and then decent post placement support.



We are very keen to encourage as many people to see for themselves just how well our job seekers perform in a competitive environment and, with this in mind, will be increasing the exposure we give through our advertising with a blitz during the football finals in September.

More to come!

# Focus on Ability 3 Awards Night- *Jodie De Ruvo*

## Some NOVA links

Watch our latest video on NOVA's Youtube channel



Become a fan of NOVA on Facebook. Recommend us to your friends.



What's news at Can-Do-Ability?



Last night was NOVA Employment's night of nights... Where we all gathered together for the airing of the finalist's films, for The Annual Focus On Ability Short Film Competition at Fox Studios, in Sydney. I went along as the 'unofficial photographer' and as a spectator, to see who took out the big cash prizes for the best short film.



Once again, all of the 150+ guests congregated in a cornered off VIP section of the movie theatre's foyer, where they were greeted with wine, beer, champagne, soft drink and lovely hot and cold hors d'oeuvres.



First, everyone mingled, with chatter buzzing about who could possibly take out the title of best short film of the 2011 Focus On Ability Comp.

This year, there were two categories; the open entrant category and the schools category. The winners of the open entrant and schools category were set to receive a huge \$5000 cash prize and the runners up, a remarkable \$1500.



After some happy snapping by me (where many jokes were made of how all of the shots taken, will be peering up people's noses) and a substantial amount of light-hearted chatter, we were ushered into our own designated movie theatre, not forgetting to grab a bucket of popcorn and a drink on the way!

Once seated, we were warmly welcomed by NOVA's very own, Martin Wren, CEO, who dazzled with his comedy stylings. Martin introduced our live entertainment, the very funky Yossi on vocals and Albert on the drums, and after their rendition of 'Play That Funky Music', the films were to begin.

Up first were the Open entrant films, where we enjoyed Kismet, Transitional Times, Greg's Story, Lili Can and Working With Ability. When the films finished, Martin was overjoyed to announce



the winner of first place which was Kismet, by Kalani Gacon, and the runner up which was Lili Can, by Melissa Morgan. There was also a surprise winner for NOVA Employment's staff choice, which was presented to Working With Ability, by Annette Krause.

After the giant novelty cheques were handed over, we then enjoyed hearing about the life story of an inspirational man who plays wheelchair basketball for the NOVA Employment Razorbacks Wheelchair Basketball Team. Grant Mizens, who became paralysed at age 16 from a car accident, has been playing wheelchair basketball for over 10 years, studied abroad, and represented his country, whilst competing for Australia in the Paralympics.

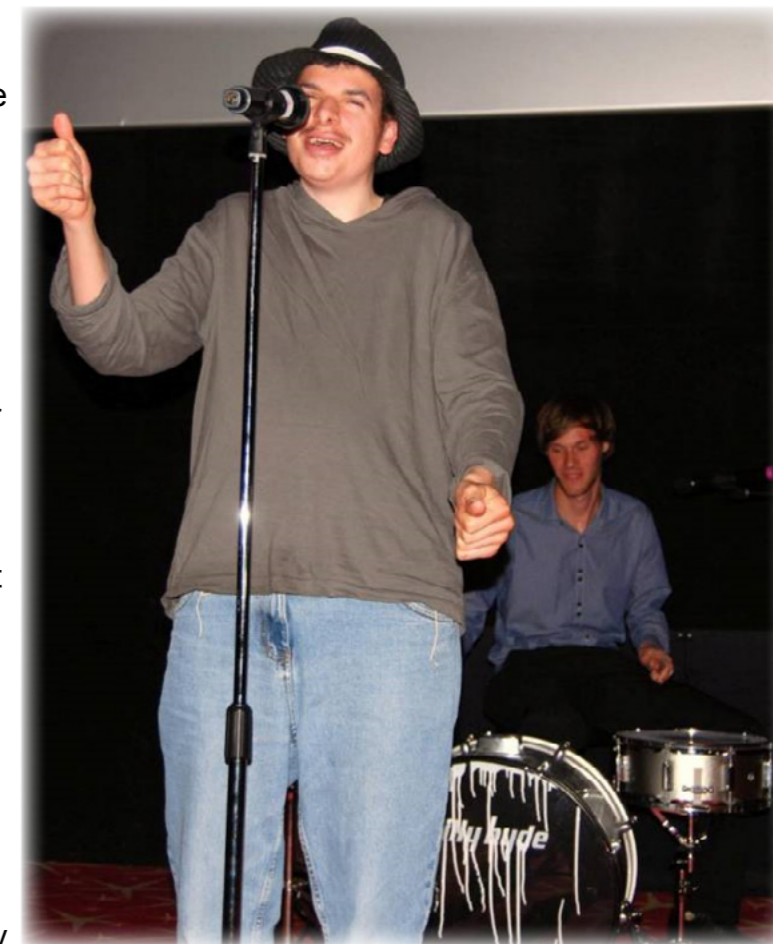
It was then my turn to get up and say a few words, and try and recruit more people to my website, before we pushed on to the second half of the film viewings.

During the school group category, we watched Focus On Employ Ability, Friday's Cafe and Employ Ability. Following the end of the schools category, it was yet again time for Martin to announce the winning schools. The winner of the \$5000 prize went to Hawkesbury High School, for Focus On Employ Ability, this was very exciting for me, as I got to chat in length with the boy's before the films commenced, letting them know that I went to their school over 10 years ago, they were a lovely bunch of guys who were very excited to have won. Runners up award went to Kingsgrove North High School for Friday's Cafe, who received \$1500. There was also a staff pick for Glenwood High's, Employ Ability.

While everyone was getting ready to leave and head home, we were entertained once more by Yossi and Albert, who finished off the night with 'Funky Town'.

As everyone left, they got some mementos to take with them; a NOVA Employment goody bag, and a NOVA Employment Razorback's Wheelchair Basketball Team t-shirt, just to remember us by.

A great night was had by all. Congratulations to all the winners and all the finalists who got to see their films played on the big screen, and we hope to see you all next year, along with many more competitors!



# Campbell's time in transition

By Campbell Peel

*I was the first person to start Transition to Work in Port Macquarie, January 2010. After finishing my HSC in 2009 I didn't have the essential skills to go straight into work. This is where NOVA's Transition to Work program came in. They run a 2 year program which helps school leavers like myself gain the necessary skills to help start and keep employment.*



TTW was nothing like I expected; it is the total opposite to school, there is no uniform and no huge classes with everyone talking at once. They run very professional and helpful services which cater to the individual needs of everyone. The program is unlike school where the teachers tell you what work you have to get done. The transition meetings help decide what everyone wants to achieve for the week; the class work is not automatically decided as it can change in an instant and varies week to week. We make decisions as a team, everyone gets a decision on what they would like to see happen and what we want is important and never ignored.

The course is not all book work. It's divided up into different sections such as guest speakers who talk about their jobs and what they involve and how they got to where they are now. The things we learn from the guest speakers are that the more work experience you complete, the more chance you have of gaining employment. Even if you have to change your path slightly, take every opportunity that you are given to reach your objective.

Our job coach Michael is a dedicated individual who will stop at nothing to help you get the job you want. He has the confidence that whatever you set your mind to that you can do it 110% everyday. He knows how to help you get where you want and will do everything he can to help you get there.

Certificate 1 in Work Education is the course we study at transition. The best part is that the course is divided in segments which make it a lot simpler to understand. The challenging bit depends on your knowledge and ability. Some of the subjects such as interpersonal communication skills are challenging because reading people's emotions was never my strong point. There are also enjoyable subjects such as life skills where you learn how to cook cheap, healthy and nutritional meals on a budget.

In conclusion this course has helped me a lot. I have had a lot of fun here at NOVA and I recommend it to anyone who is looking for an option after leaving Year 12. NOVA delivers a professional service which is the best in the area and I wouldn't have gone anywhere else.



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